

Created by: Lexie Boblitt, Warder Park/Wayne Elementary School

Grade level: 4

Primary source citation: Light bulb used in demonstration at Menlo Park, 1879.
Accessed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Edison_bulb.jpg

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photograph located at the above link (or attached) while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level 1: Description

1. What do you think this is a photograph of?
2. Who do you think invented/created this? How do you know?
3. When (what year) do you think this was invented?

Level 2: Interpretation

1. Describe what you see in the picture. Can you compare it to something that you see today? Are you using it now?
2. Do you think Thomas Edison was successful on his first attempt of inventing a light bulb? Why or why not? Did he give up or keep trying? How do you know? What would you have done?
3. If you could interview Mr. Edison, what question would you like to ask him? What would you tell him about the light bulb today?

Level 3: Analysis

1. Do you think Mr. Edison's invention of the light bulb was important? Why or why not?
2. Think about (analyze) how the light bulb is important in society today. How would your life be different without it?
3. We are now living in the 21st century. How have light bulbs changed? How would you improve our current light bulbs? What changes or modifications would you make? Illustrate your new model and discuss what effects/applications it would have in today's society.

1 Light bulb used in demonstration at Menlo Park, Christmas week, 1879
From Frank Wardlaw Jr.,
NMHT 210578

1

210578
EDISON'S FIRST
COPPER HORSESHOE
BULB - USED IN THE
MENLO PARK DEMONSTRATION
OF DEC. 1879
IN THE PENN. MUSEUM

