

Impact on American Life

*Use a dictionary to write the meaning of each word.

Lesson 1: George Washington Carver

kidnapped: _____

respiratory: _____

abolished: _____

recognition: _____

rotate: _____

Lesson 2: The Wright Brothers

interest: _____

research: _____

conducted: _____

Lesson 3: Alexander Graham Bell

acoustics: _____

communicate: _____

articulate: _____

refined: _____

Lesson 4: Thomas Edison

formal: _____

inventor: _____

telegraph: _____

device: _____

constant: _____

CONTEXT CLUES: (ELEGSE5L4a)

George's parents **encouraged** him to go to school and learn. They did everything they could to help him get an education.

Encouraged means: A) were negative B) uncaring C) were positive

George Washington Carver was born into slavery in 1864. When he was a baby, he and his mother and sister were **kidnapped**. They were sold in Arkansas. Their owner, Moses Carver, hired someone to find them. George was found and returned without his mother and sister. George grew up with a **respiratory** illness and couldn't work in the fields. He spent his time outside studying the plants. The "Plant Doctor" became George's nickname.

When slavery was **abolished**, Moses Carver and his wife raised George and his brother as their own. They encouraged him to study and sent him to school. He earned a diploma at Minneapolis High School in Kansas. He also earned a degree and a master's degree at Simpson College in Iowa. There he performed research that earned him **recognition** as a botanist. A botanist is a person who studies plant life. In 1896, he was invited to work in the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. Carver stayed there for 47 years.

While Carver was working in Tuskegee, Alabama he helped farmers learn about poor soil quality. He urged them to **rotate** cotton crops with sweet potatoes and beans to help the soil. He developed 300 uses for peanuts and over 100 uses for sweet potatoes. He is also credited with inventing peanut butter. Carver did not apply for patents for his discoveries because he felt that he should not profit from nature and God.

1. What was George's nickname? _____

2. Why did people call him this? _____

3. Why did Carver not apply for a patent for his discoveries? _____

READING AND INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER: Rewrite the following events in paragraph form in chronological order. Write legibly and in cursive.

- A) George went to college.
- B) George was born into slavery.
- C) George and his mother and sister were kidnapped.
- D) In 1896, he was invited to work at Tuskegee University.
- E) Studying plants became a hobby of his as a child.

LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY SKILLS

PARTS OF SPEECH: (ELAGSE5L1)

**Underline the nouns in each sentence. Circle the prepositions.
Draw a box around the conjunctions.**

1. Moses Carver and his wife raised George and his brother. (4 nouns)
*What did Moses Carver and his wife do? _____ (verb)

2. George earned a diploma at Minneapolis High School. (3 nouns)
*What did George do? _____ (verb)

CONTEXT CLUES: (ELEGSE5L4a)

In March of 1903, the Wright Brothers applied for a **patent** for their glider. No one else had made anything like this before.

Patent means: A) airplane B) exclusive rights C) application

Orville Wright was born August 19, 1871. Wilbur Wright was born April 16, 1867. As boys, they were given a toy helicopter by their father. It was made of paper and bamboo. The helicopter was only one foot long. The boys played with the toy until it broke. They wanted another helicopter to play with so they built their own. This toy started their **interest** in flying.

The Wright brothers did a lot of **research** before flying a glider that could use a motor. Orville and Wilbur researched and tested wing shapes. They built a wind tunnel and **conducted** wind experiments. The boys also made projects with bicycles and motors and practiced balance. All of this research was important to the success of the airplane they finally created.

In 1900, they started gliding experiments in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. This was a sandy coastal area with a regular breeze and a soft spot for landing. In 1901, they built a glider with larger wings. They continued their research and in 1902 made a glider that looks like airplanes look today. In March of 1903, they applied for a patent. Also in 1903, they built the Wright Flyer with propellers and an engine. In December of 1903, they took to the air with their first powered flight. The Wright brothers are credited with making the first human air flight on December 17, 1903.

1. **What made the Wright boys want to learn about flying?** _____

2. **What did the boys do before making the airplane?** _____

3. **When did the Wright brothers apply for a patent?** _____

READING AND INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

INFERENCE: An inference is information that is not directly stated in the text. Use clues from the text to help you answer the question.

Would it have been possible for the Wright brothers to be successful without the research & experiments they did leading up to their first flight?

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER: (ELAGSE5RI5)

Circle the event that happened **FIRST** in the story.

The Wright Brothers made the first human air flight on December 17, 1903.
The Wright Brothers were given a toy helicopter by their father.
They started gliding experiments in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
The Wright Flyer was built with propellers and an engine.
In 1902, they made a glider that looked like the modern airplane.

LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY SKILLS

PARTS OF SPEECH: (ELAGSE5L1)

Underline the nouns in each sentence. Circle the prepositions.

Draw a box around the conjunctions.

1. Mr. Wright gave his two boys a toy helicopter. (3 nouns)

*What did Mr. Wright do? _____ (verb)

*What word modifies boys? _____ (adjective)

2. The brothers built a wind tunnel and conducted wind experiments. (3n) (1c)

*What did they do? _____ (verb)

CONTEXT CLUES: (ELEGSE5L4a)

Alexander Graham Bell was an **expert** in communication. He knew almost everything there was to know about the subject.

Expert means: A) authority B) subject C) professor

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 3, 1847. At age 16, he went to the University of Edinburgh. While in Scotland, he studied the science of **acoustics**, or sound because his mother was deaf. He then went to London, and he graduated from University College in London.

In 1870, Alexander immigrated to Canada. He was interested in communication machines because he wanted to **communicate** with his deaf mother. Later he went to Boston University and continued to do research. Bell wanted to produce a telephone that would **articulate** speech. He was an expert in communication, and he invented techniques for teaching speech to the deaf.

In 1875, Bell invented the telephone. (It is now recognized that Antonio Meucci invented a version of the first phone in 1871.) Bell applied for a patent in 1876 and **refined** the phone. The Bell Telephone Company was formed in 1877. By 1886, over 150,000 people in the United States owned a telephone. Alexander Graham Bell and the telephone changed communication in the world forever.

1. Why did Bell study the science of acoustics? _____

2. Why was Bell interested in communication machines? _____

3. What happened in the United States by the year 1886? _____

READING AND INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER: Place the following events in order. (use # 1-4)

- A. Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. _____
- B. The Bell Telephone Company was formed in 1877. _____
- C. By 1886, over 150,000 people in the U.S. owned a telephone. _____
- D. Bell immigrated to Canada in 1870. _____

LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY SKILLS

PARTS OF SPEECH: (ELAGSE5L1)

Underline the nouns in each sentence. Circle the prepositions.

Draw a box around the conjunctions.

- 1. Bell wanted to communicate with his deaf mother. (2 nouns) (2p)
*What did Bell do? _____ (verb)
*What word modifies mother? _____ (adjective)
- 2. Bell invented techniques for teaching speech to the deaf. (4 nouns) (2p)
*What did Bell do? _____ (verb)

USAGE AND MECHANICS: Correct all errors in capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and usage. The number in () tells how many errors there are.

- 1. alexander graham bell were born in edinburgh scotland (8)
-

- 2. bell went too boston university and continued two due research (7)
-

- 3. the bell telephone company were formed in 1877 (6)
-

CONTEXT CLUES: (ELEGSE5L4a)

Edison became **partially** deaf at the age of twelve. He could hear, but not very well. **Partially** means: A) deaf B) not completely C) completely

Thomas Alva Edison was born February 11, 1847. He was born in Milan, Ohio. He was one of seven children. Thomas only had three months of **formal** schooling. The school master thought he was slow and sent him home. As a former teacher, his mother took over his education. He became partially deaf at the age of twelve.

He began his career as an **inventor** in Newark, New Jersey. In 1868, he received his first patent for the electric vote recorder. One of his first jobs was a **telegraph** operator. Thomas also improved on telegraphic devices. In 1877, he invented the phonograph. This was the first **device** to record and produce sounds. People were so shocked by this that they thought it was magic. This gained him instant fame.

Thomas Edison also founded the first industrial research lab in Menlo Park, New Jersey. This was a place of **constant** technological innovation and improvement. Edison is legally credited with all the inventions that were made there. Many were made by his employees under his supervision. Edison invented the costly incandescent electric lamp. Edison wanted to improve upon this design. By 1879, he created a long lasting bulb that would burn for hundreds of hours. Edison was able to sell this idea to homes and businesses. Thomas Edison influenced and changed America and the world forever.

1. Why did the school master send Thomas home from school? _____

2. What did Edison receive his first patent for? _____

3. What was Edison's most important invention? _____

READING AND INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER: Place the events in the order they happened.

- A. 1879, Edison invented the long lasting light bulb. _____
- B. Thomas Alva Edison was born February 11, 1847. _____
- C. In 1877, he invented the phonograph. _____
- D. He became partially deaf at the age of twelve. _____

LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY SKILLS

PARTS OF SPEECH: (ELAGSE5L1a)

Underline the nouns in each sentence. Circle the prepositions.

Draw a box around the conjunctions.

1. Thomas Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, and he was one of seven children.
(5n) (2p) (1c)
2. In 1868, he received his first patent for the electric vote recorder.
(3n) (2p)
3. Edison first sold his idea of the long lasting bulb to homes and businesses.
(5n) (2p) (1c)

USAGE AND MECHANICS: Correct all errors in each sentence.

1. edison begin he career as a inventor in newark new jersey (9)

2. one of he first job were a telegraph operator (5)

3. he were able too sale this idea two homes and businesses (6)

EXTENDED RESPONSE: Who do you think had a greater impact on life in America; George Washington Carver, the Wright Brothers, Alexander Graham Bell, or Thomas Edison?

What reasons do you have for choosing that person?

Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

Person chosen: _____

Evidence from the text:

Impact on the world

Opinion: Why did you choose this person?

Use the outline on the previous page and write your extended response.

George Washington Carver

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Early life: _____

What impact did this person have on American life? _____

Wright Brothers

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Early life: _____

What impact did they have on American life? _____

Alexander Graham Bell

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Early life: _____

What impact did this person have on American life? _____

Thomas Edison

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Early life: _____

What impact did this person have on American life? _____

Place the events in the correct order on the timeline.

In 1868 Edison received his first patent.

Alexander Graham Bell was born on March 3, 1847.

Thomas Alva Edison was born February 11, 1847.

In December of 1903, the Wright Brothers took to the air with their first powered flight.

Timeline



Which event should be first on your timeline? _____

Which event should be last on your timeline? _____
