

Adam Harris

5/22/15

Inventing the Future R.A.C.E.R.

“Inventing the Future” by Marfe Ferguson Delano describes ways that Thomas Edison was a great inventor. Some of these are that he was hard-working, he knew what to invent, and that he was innovative in his resources. These character traits and actions describe why Thomas Edison was a great inventor.

Being able to work hard in his inventing gave Edison an advantage over the other inventors of his time, and it was an important factor in becoming a great inventor. Without some of the long hours and nights that Edison had worked, some of his brilliant ideas never would have come true. Edison knew that to succeed he had to work hard. He even said that “Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration,” which means that even if you have an amazing idea for something, you still have to work hard to achieve it. Edison demonstrates this quality to work hard and never give up in his work. He did this by never stopping on an idea until he succeeded, and knowing that every time he failed he was closer to getting his invention right. Thomas Edison’s trait of working hard made him a great inventor.

The fact that Edison didn’t invent things that people wouldn’t buy was another thing that made him known as a successful inventor. Edison knew that if people didn’t want something he created then it wasn’t worth making. He even said that “Anything that won’t sell I don’t want to create. It’s sale is proof of utility, and utility is success.” This means that if people aren’t buying an invention, then they aren’t using it, and the use of an invention determines its success. By knowing this, Edison was able to know what to invent, so he didn’t waste time inventing things that no one would want. Because Edison knew what to invent, he was able to make things that were in high demand which helped him become a great inventor.

Besides knowing what to invent and working hard in his inventing, another thing that made Thomas Edison a great inventor was that he was innovative in the resources he used to build his inventions. Without doing this, Edison wouldn't have been able to create things like the light bulb before other inventors did, but in doing this he tested "one thousand six-hundred materials, to find the best filament." Because Edison did this he found the perfect filament for his light bulbs, one that other inventors didn't find because they weren't as resourceful in materials. Finding creative materials for his inventions helped Edison be one step ahead of his competitors. Therefore being resourceful in his inventions was something that made Thomas Edison a great inventor.

Edison had certain character traits and actions that made him a successful inventor. Some of these are that he was very hard working throughout his inventing career. Also, he knew what to invent and was innovative in the resources he used to make his inventions. These things are a big reason why Thomas Edison was a great inventor.