

Morse & Edison – Fourth Grade

Inventor Trading Cards

Objective: To familiarize fourth graders with the lives and inventions of Samuel Morse and Thomas Edison by creating trading cards with facts and illustrations.

Materials Needed:

1. Pictures of Samuel Morse and Thomas Edison.
2. Index cards or small pieces of cardstock paper.
3. Markers, colored pencils, or crayons.
4. Information sheets (facts about Morse and Edison).
5. Glue or tape.
6. Scissors.

Introduction:

- Show pictures of Samuel Morse and Thomas Edison and briefly introduce them as famous inventors.
- Explain that students will be creating trading cards to learn more about these inventors and their inventions.

Research:

- Provide students with encyclopedias and online resources containing facts about Samuel Morse and Thomas Edison. Include details about their inventions, achievements, and their impact on society.
- Encourage students to read the information carefully and take notes on key facts.

Trading Card Creation:

- Give each student an index card or a small piece of cardstock paper.
- Instruct them to create a trading card for either Samuel Morse or Thomas Edison.
- On one side, they should draw a picture of the inventor or one of their inventions.
- On the other side of the card, they should write down important facts about the inventor

and their contributions.

- Encourage creativity in designing the cards.

Trading Card Swap:

- Have students pair up and trade their cards with a classmate who researched the other inventor.
- Ask each pair to discuss and compare the information on the cards they received.

Presentation:

- Invite students to share interesting facts or discoveries they made about Morse and Edison during the trading card activity.
- Discuss the different inventions and their significance in history.

Reflection and Display:

- Have students reflect on what they learned and what they found most fascinating about these inventors.
- Display the trading cards on a bulletin board or in the classroom to showcase student work.