

**CONRAD PRODUCTIONS
41 WASHINGTON PLACE
EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ 07073
(201) 935 - 6396 * 1 - 800 - 352 - 7256**

CULTURAL ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

TO: Assembly Coordinator

From: Bob Conrad

RE: Assembly Program

Enclosed are newsletter/bulletin information, and study guides for the program **A Visit With Thomas Alva Edison** . Please use these materials to prepare for the assembly as indicated.

Bulletin Information: This information may be used verbatim or in an edited version for the school newsletter, bulletin, or other media.

Study Guides: Classroom discussion of the subject matter presented in the program will greatly facilitate student comprehension of the educational content of the program. Please provide a copy of the study guides to each of the classroom teachers.

Introduction: Please give the enclosed suggested introduction to the person that will be introducing the program, and ask them to read the introduction as written. Thank you.

We thank you for your efforts in preparing students for the upcoming assembly program.

A VISIT WITH THOMAS ALVA EDISON : Suggested introduction

We have a very special treat for you today. As most of you know, we Americans have been very, very fortunate to have had a number of truly great inventors in the little over 200 year history of our country. Most of you have learned about Alexander Graham Bell, Eli Whitney, Robert Fulton, the Wright Brothers and other great American inventors. Today you are going to meet an actor who will portray for you one of the most important American inventors who ever lived, Thomas Alva Edison, the man who invented the future.

Our performer is Mr. Bob Conrad, made up to look like Thomas Edison. And he will talk to you about some of the events in Mr. Edison's life that we think will interest you.

Remember, Thomas Edison died on October 18,1931 at the age of 84, and what you will see now is a dramatic presentation performed by a very talented actor.

Let us give a warm welcome to Mr. Bob Conrad as THOMAS ALVA EDISON.

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A VISIT WITH THOMAS ALVA EDISON

A TEACHERS GUIDE

TEACHERS OUTLINE :

This program is a dramatic presentation in which actor Bob Conrad , in the character of Thomas Edison, talks to your students about many of the events in his life; his childhood, his family, education, His many inventions including the incandescent lamp, the phonograph, and the motion picture. Mr. Conrad incorporates magic, music, and puppets as he brings Thomas Edison to life

OUR TWO OBJECTIVES

1. First , just as students are taught how to exit the school in case of a fire, they need to learn how to assemble in a quiet and orderly manner. This program is a **live** program which is **spontaneously** presented and not automatically presented as a movie or television program.

Therefore, it calls for students to be on extra good behavior. This means reminding them before the program about **good assembly manners**, such as not talking, sitting up straight, keeping hands to themselves and laughing/ applauding the program without booing or whistling.

2. Second, the purpose of the program is to introduce , broaden, and give depth to the individual student's conception of some of the particulars, as well as wide range of material in the study of of America's greatest inventor, what it was like before the invention of the electric light, the motion picture and recorded sound. Younger students will understand that all the things we take for granted didn't always exist. They will be introduced to people and places that are new to them. Older elementary students will enjoy the program because it puts the fun back into learning.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

THE STORY OF THOMAS ALVA EDISON, Mickie Compere (Four Winds Press)
THE STORY OF THOMAS ALVA EDISON, Margaret Cousins (Landmark Books)
EDISON AT WORK , David Hutchings (Troll Associates)
THE STORY OF THOMAS ALVA EDISON , Enid Lamonte Meadowcroft (G & D)

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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES TO PREPARE FOR PROGRAM:

Hold a class discussion about Thomas Alva Edison and his three major inventions, the light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture, so that your students will have prior knowledge of Edison and his work.

FOR YOUNGER GRADES K-3 : Discuss with your students who Thomas Edison was, when he lived, what an inventor is, and what he does.

VOCABULARY WORDS USED IN THIS PROGRAM:

ALVA	NANCY	SAMUEL	MENLO PARK
LIGHT BULB	TELEPHONE	PHONOGRAPH	ELECTRIC
TELEGRAPH	FORD	INVENTOR	MOTION PICTURE
WEST ORANGE		BLACK MARIA	

We have enclosed a Thomas Edison Word Search using these words. Please copy and distribute to your class.

AREAS OF CURRICULUM INTO WHICH PROGRAM MAY BE INTEGRATED:

SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, ENGLISH, LITERATURE, ART, DRAMA

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES :

1. Assign the composition of letters relating to the program. These may be addressed to the performer, the PTA (if they sponsored the presentation) , the administrator, or even the local newspaper.
2. Assign the drawing of posters that relate to the program just seen.
3. Hold a class discussion on what life might have been like before Mr. Edison's inventions. of the light bulb, the motion picture, recording sound.
4. Discuss the evolution of technologies originated by Edison, such as electrical lighting, sound recording, and motion pictures; compare his original inventions with their modern equivalents.
5. Discuss the era in which Mr. Edison lived and worked; rail transportation, telegraph communication, the educational system of the time, and even the entertainment before the creation of radio, motion pictures and television.

6. Discuss how Edison overcame his handicap (deafness), and actually learned to use it to his advantage. Explain how he learned to communicate (Morse code) despite his deafness.

Discuss other famous people who were handicapped; Franklin D. Roosevelt, Beethoven, Einstein, Helen Keller, Stevie Wonder.

7. Copy and distribute Word Search to your class.

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN INFORMATION

Thomas Alva Edison will be visiting _____
School on _____ (date) at _____ (time) in the
person of, Bob Conrad, actor and educator.

Mr. Conrad will present his program "A Visit with Thomas Alva Edison", giving the students the chance to meet, see and hear the greatest inventor of all times. Actor Bob Conrad, in the character of Thomas Edison tells your students about many of the events in his life; his family, his childhood and education, his adventures, and his many, many inventions, all at a level that can be understood and appreciated by even the youngest student.

Bob Conrad travels to hundreds of schools trough out New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania each year presenting this and other educational programs. A very talented gentleman, Mr. Conrad uses the skills of Magic, Puppetry, Storytelling, and Music to bring the Wizard of Menlo Park to life.

No newcomer to the field of children's entertainment , Conrad has been appearing at schools, shopping malls, libraries, museums, camps and picnics for more than 25 years. He is the author of " THE PUPPETRY WORKSHOP MANUAL", " MOUTH PUPPETS", and "BOB CONRAD'S CHALK TALK CARTOONS". Considered an expert in the field of children's entertainment he is a regular columnist in "LAUGH MAKERS" magazine. For ten years he was the editor of "PUPPETRY WORKSHEET" the official newsletter of the AMERICAN PUPPETMAKERS ASSOCIATION, of which he was one of the founders. He is a member of the Puppeteers of America, The Puppetry Guild of New York, The North American Association of Ventriloquists, and the Society of American Magicians.

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Photo's may be down loaded from web site.

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