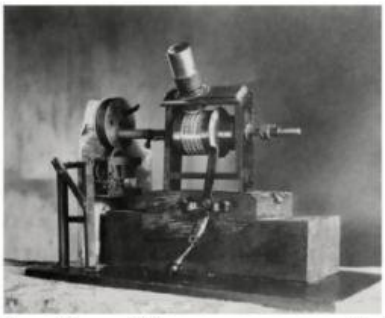
Do Now – Wednesday, September 29, 2021

RI. 4.3 Explain events in a HISTORICAL Text, including what happened and why.

Thomas Edison's Failed Inventions

adapted from the Library of Congress

Thomas Edison had 1,093 patents for different inventions. Many of them, like the light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera, were brilliant creations that have a huge influence on our everyday life. However, not everything he created was a success. He also had a few failures.

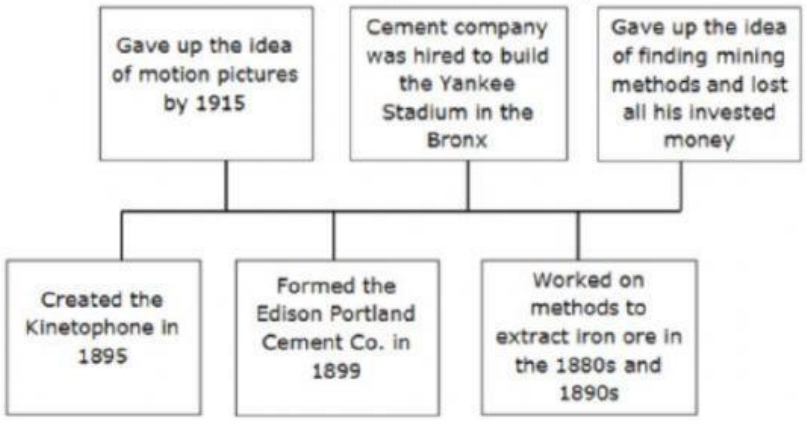


From the beginning of the creation of motion pictures, many people tried to combine film and sound to make "talking" motion pictures. By 1895, Edison had created the Kinetophone. It was a Kinetoscope (peep-hole motion picture viewer) with a phonograph that played inside the cabinet. Sound could be heard through two ear tubes while the viewer watched the images. This creation never really took off. By 1915, Edison abandoned the idea of sound motion pictures.

Another concept that never took off was Edison's interest in using cement to build things. He formed the Edison Portland Cement Co. in 1899. Edison made everything from cabinets (for phonographs) to pianos and houses. Unfortunately, at the time, concrete was too expensive, and the idea was never accepted. Cement wasn't a total failure, though. His company was hired to build Yankee Stadium in the Bronx.

The greatest failure of Edison's career was his inability to create a practical way to mine iron ore. He worked on mining methods through the late 1880s and early 1890s to supply the Pennsylvania steel mills' demand for iron ore. To finance this work, he sold all his stock in General Electric. However, he was never able to create a separator that could extract iron from unusable, low-grade ores. Eventually, Edison gave up on the idea, but by then he had lost all the money he had invested.

Thomas Edison's Failed Concepts



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Directions: Drag each tile to the correct location on the chart.

Match the correct cause or effect with the statements in the chart.

Edison created the Kinetophone.

His company was hired to build Yankee Stadium.

He made pianos, cabinets, and houses.

Edison needed to finance his work on mining methods.

He couldn't make a separator for removing iron from ore.

What happened?	Why it happened?
	He wanted to create movies with both sound and motion.
	Edison had an interest in using cement to build things.
Cement was not a complete failure for Edison.	
He sold all his stock in General Electric.	
Edison gave up on the idea and lost all the money he had put into it.	

LIVEWORKSHEETS