

Name _____ Date _____

What do you know about light bulbs?



Bright Ideas!

Did you know that many years ago people did not have electricity in the home so there was no need for light bulbs? Instead people used wax candles or lamps that burned oil or kerosene. These were dangerous because they could easily start a fire. These types of light were also often dirty and smoky. In 1879, all that changed when Thomas Edison perfected the light bulb. It was both bright and safe to use in the home.

The light bulb has three main parts. A metal base that conducts electricity, a thin wire on the inside that is called a filament, and the bulb that protects the filament by keeping air away from it are the only parts needed. Though light bulbs are safer than oil lamps or candles, they are still dangerous when broken, so let an adult clean up if this happens.

1. Review the passage and explain what a filament is for a light bulb. _____

2. Underline the sentence in the passage that explains why oil lamps and candles were dangerous.
3. Circle the name of the person that perfected the light bulb.
4. When are newer light bulbs dangerous according to the passage? _____

5. Draw a square around the two substances that used to be put in amps to burn.