

Recommended Readings

The Magic School Bus and the Electric Field Trip by Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen. Scholastic Press, 1997.

Ms. Frizzle leads her class in yet another adventure when they explore electricity. This text successfully provides a "big picture" about electricity and how it is generated when the class visits a power plant. In addition, an explanation of how a motor works makes this book equally appropriate for students using the *Electromagnetism* unit.

Simple Electrical Devices by Martin J. Gutnik. Franklin Watts, 1986.

Students and teachers of *Electrical Circuits* and *Electromagnetism* may really enjoy the explanations and project ideas in this book. Content in the beginning of the book closely parallels the scope of the *Electrical Circuits* unit. In addition, there are sections that contain information on light bulbs, electromagnetic devices, motors and generators, and the telephone. Black and white illustrations accompany the text.

The Story of Thomas Alva Edison, Inventor: The Wizard of Menlo Park by Margaret Davidson. Scholastic, 1964.

This book has a more thorough treatment of Edison's inventions than some other biographies though the text is somewhat dated. There is an excellent chapter about the invention of the incandescent light bulb and the development of its filament. The text is double spaced and appropriate for fourth grade readers.

Switch On, Switch Off by Melvin Berger. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1989.

This "Let's Read and Find Out Science Book" provides an overview of electrical power in an easy reader format. The content includes information about switches, power generators, electric wires and light bulbs. It is appropriate for students of both *Electrical Circuits* and *Electromagnetism* units.

Thomas Alva Edison: Great Inventor by David A. Adler. Holiday House, 1990.

In this "First Biography", the author describes the life of Edison from early childhood. Interesting in part because of his many failures, Edison always said, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." Beautiful black and white illustrations accompany the text. The book includes a section about invention of the light bulb.

Thomas Edison and Electricity by Steve Parker. Harper Collins Publishers, 1992.

This biography includes more photographs and illustrations than most other books about Edison. The text is interesting and similar to others, but may be slightly more challenging reading for fourth grade students.

What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin? by Jean Fritz. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc. 1976.

This biography is filled with interesting anecdotal stories about the famous Revolutionary War era statesman and inventor. The "big idea" referred to in the title is that electricity and lightning are the same thing. Students may be surprised to learn about the many ideas and abilities of this extraordinary person.