

BACK TO THE FUTURE THE MUSICAL



Lesson Objective: Explore and understand the key theme of “failure before success” within the production.

THINK/PAIR/SHARE

In the production, Doc Brown says,
“You know how many tries it took Edison
to get the light bulb right?”

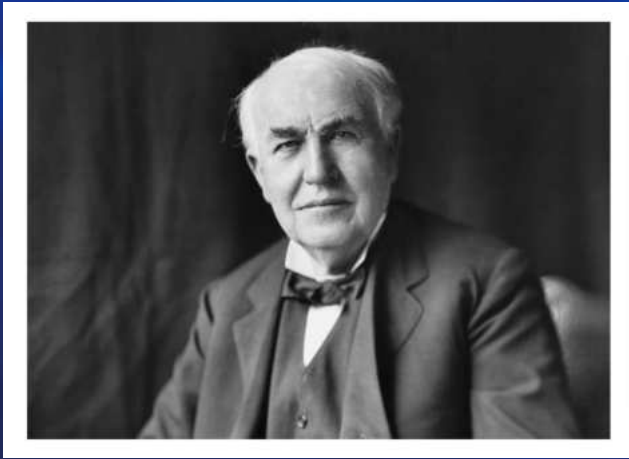
Q. How many tries do you think it took?

“We have the scene in the show where Doc Brown says, ‘You know how many tries it took Edison to get the light bulb right?’ It was like 10,000, I believe; 10,000 experiments with different filaments until he found the right one that worked. Failure is really important to get to success, and I think that’s a lesson that isn’t taught well enough.”

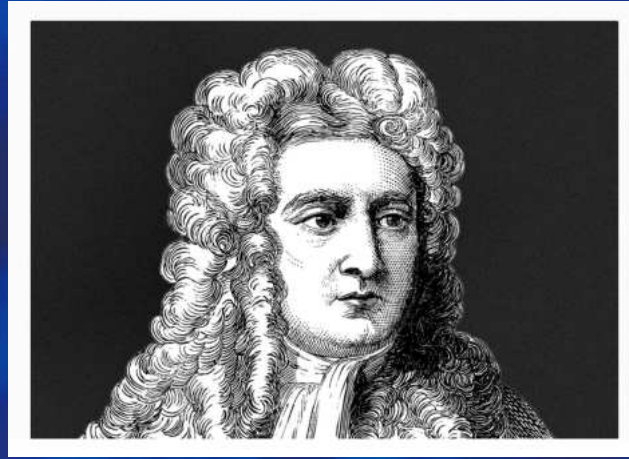
Bob Gale - Writer, *Back to the Future*

Discussion: Are you surprised by this? If not, why? Do you agree that failure is important in order to succeed?

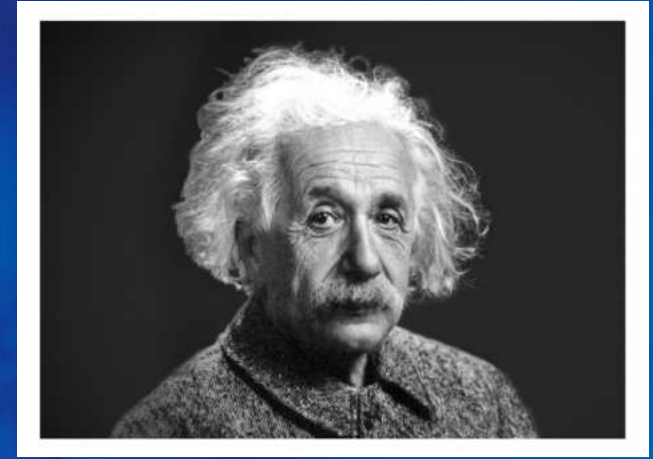
WHAT CHALLENGES DID THESE SCIENTISTS FACE? HOW WERE THEY VIEWED BY SOCIETY?



Thomas Edison



Isaac Newton



Albert Einstein



Marie Curie



Ada Lovelace



Stephen Hawking

DOC EMMETT BROWN

Discussion

- 1) Why are the scientists important role models for Doc?
- 2) As someone trying to create something innovative, new, or deemed "impossible", how does society view Doc and his experiments?
- 3) Have you ever failed before finally succeeding? Share examples.
- 4) Is it failure or is it just problem-solving?



Extract - This One's for the Dreamers

***"LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE DREAMERS
WHO NEVER STOP BELIEVING
ONE GRAIN OF SAND
BECOMES A PEARL
A GREAT IDEA
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD
THEY CAN SEE
WHAT OTHERS DON'T
TRY THINGS OTHERS WON'T"***

MAIN ACTIVITY 2 - CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

- All the creatives involved with the show loved how challenging *Back to the Future* was, and how much problem-solving was involved. Brainstorm in your group the challenges that the creative team might have faced when staging the following moments.
- ✓ How do you think the creatives had to work to overcome these challenges?
- ✓ What qualities and skills do they need?
- ✓ What creative problem-solving was involved?

Key Moments:

1. The DeLorean driving to 88mph
2. Time-travel sequences
3. The DeLorean flying
4. Doc climbing up the clock tower
5. Biff chasing Marty through the school

QUALITIES

- Why are the following qualities important when creating theatre?
- Resilience
- Perseverance
- Self-belief
- Determination



Original Broadway Cast

WHAT THE CREATIVES SAID ABOUT WORKING ON THE SHOW

“This, for me, was probably the best creative experience I've ever had.”

Bob Gale - Writer

“I've loved all of the problem-solving involved in the show.”

Tim Lutkin - Lighting Designer

“I think working with all our collaborators has been great; just the nuts and bolts of solving what seemed impossible or very difficult is extremely satisfying. It just uses all of the cogs in your head...I love a puzzle.”

Tim Hatley - Set Designer

YOUR FUTURE SELF

- **Close your eyes.**
- **Focus on something you want to achieve in the future. This could be tomorrow, next week, or next year (it should be something which is a challenge for you!).**
- **Picture yourself achieving it.**
- **Now, as your future self, looking back, what advice would you give to your younger self about ‘failure before success’?**

BACK TO FUTURE THE MUSICAL



Mousetrap
theatreprojects

Commissioned by
Mousetrap Theatre Projects
www.mousetrap.org.uk



WE TEACH DRAMA
Written by
Lucy Bellingham
info@weteachdrama.com



Updated for Broadway by
iTheatrics
www.itheatrics.com

DESIGNED BY **DEWYNTERS**

Photo Credit: Matthew Murphy & Evan Zimmerman