

What's the Problem?



The Impact of Light Bulbs on Society

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The invention of the incandescent light bulb is often seen as a major historical milestone. This landmark product, first appearing in the late 1800s according to IdeaFinder.com, helped revolution human society and spur further advancements. The societal impact of the light bulb is multi-tiered, but it can most succinctly be expressed in terms of work, leisure, and safety.

Working Hours

One of the most notable impacts of the light bulb was that it made longer work hours possible. While a longer work week often meant abuse of the working class, increased nighttime productivity helped spur industrial advancements.

Workplace Safety

Increased luminescence in the workplace helped make it easier for laborers to see potential workplace hazards. While safety standards were admittedly poor in the late 1800s, the light bulb did help make moderate improvements.

Home Safety

Candles and oil-based lamps were dangerous fire hazards, leading to many yearly deaths. The light bulb made for a safer nighttime home environment.

Leisure Hours

While many people found themselves working later, they also found that increased nighttime luminosity made it possible to enjoy leisure activities late into the night.

Leisure Activities

Prior to the light bulb, electricity was mainly used in industrial centers. With the light bulb, many homes installed electric outlets; the light bulb made it possible for electric radios, televisions and eventually video game systems to enter the home.