



**Grade Level**

Middle School

**Disciplines**

Social Studies

### **Objectives**

The students will be able to:

1. define opportunity.
2. discern the difference between opportunity and luck.
3. articulate whether opportunities come through luck or through planning.
4. Demonstrate how Ed Link planned and worked to follow his passion, how he was ready to take advantage of opportunities as they rose, and how he turned those opportunities into success.

### **Key Terms**

**Link Trainer-** The term Link Trainer, also known as the "Blue box" and "Pilot Trainer" is commonly used to refer to a series of flight simulators produced between the early 1930s and early 1950s by Link Aviation Devices, founded and headed by Ed Link, based on technology he pioneered in 1929 at his family's business in Binghamton, New York.

**Opportunity-** A favorable or advantageous circumstance or combination of circumstances; A chance for progress or advancement, as in a career.

**Optimist-** A person who is inclined to be hopeful and to expect good outcomes.:

**Pessimist-** A person who tends to see the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen. A person who believes that this world is as bad as it could be or that evil will ultimately prevail over good:

### **Essential Questions**

- Does planning bring opportunities?
- Do people make their own opportunities?
- Is opportunity all about luck?

### **Background**

Use the actual script.

### **Procedures**

- I. Ask students what does opportunity mean?
  - a. Entertain various answers (approximately 10 minutes).
- II. Ask students whether people can make their own opportunities through

preparation, or are opportunities, just a matter of luck?

a. Entertain various answers. (approximately 10 minutes)

III. Instruct students read the quotes below (approximately 25 minutes to read and write).

a. Ask them to write a paragraph explaining the common theme of all the quotes and how that message can be applied to their own lives.

1. *Success is where preparation and opportunity meet.* Auto Racer, Bobby Unser
2. *A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.* Father of Modern Science, Francis Bacon.
3. *We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work.* Thomas A. Edison, Inventor
4. *Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.* Henry Ford, Auto Maker, and Innovator
5. *I will prepare and someday my chance will come.* President Abraham Lincoln.
6. *The entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity.* Peter Drucker, Management Consultant
7. *In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.* Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist,
8. *A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.* U.K. Prime Minister, Winston S. Churchill
9. *Don't wait for the right opportunity: create it.* George Bernard Shaw, Irish Playwright
10. *If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.* Comedian, Milton Berle
11. *The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger: the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger--but recognize the opportunity.* President John F. Kennedy

#### Homework

IV. Allow students to finish their paragraph

#### The Following Day

V. Have select students read their essay aloud.

a. Make sure they see that all of these men believe that work and preparation brings opportunities that the unprepared will not see (approximately 15 minutes).

VI. Have students watch the video: [LINK\\_Trainer on Vimeo](#) (7 minutes)

a. Provide students with a copy of the video text.

VII. Instruct them to write down what they believe was Ed Link's passion in life (approximately 5 minutes).

a. Ask them to then list where opportunities appeared that helped Link pursue his passion on the provided form (approximately 8 minutes).

b. Ask students to also list where Link prepared himself to take advantage of any opportunity that came his way (approximately 8 minutes).

#### Homework

VIII. Have students write a paragraph explaining how Link prepared himself to achieve success pursuing his passion.

a. Teachers can have the students read and discuss their essays the following day, or the teacher can just assess the written product.