Thomas Alva Edison

Inventor Thomas Edison was born on February 11, 1847, in Milan, Ohio. Thomas Edison was the youngest of seven children of Samuel and Nancy Edison. His father was an exiled political activist from Canada, while his mother was an accomplished schoolteacher and a major influence in Thomas' early life.

Edison was a poor student. When a teacher called Edison "addled," his furious mother took him out of the school and proceeded to teach him at home. Edison said many years later, "My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me, and I felt I had someone to live for, someone I must not disappoint." At an early age, he showed a fascination for mechanical things and for chemical experiments.

Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor, his inventions included the telegraph, the universal stock ticker, the phonograph, the first commercially practical incandescent electric light bulb, alkaline storage batteries and the Kinetograph (a camera for motion pictures).

During his lifetime, Edison received 1,093 U.S. patents and filed an additional 500 to 600 that were unsuccessful or abandoned. He executed his first patent for his Electrographic Vote-Recorder on October 13, 1868, at the age of 21. His last patent was for an apparatus for holding objects during the electroplating process.

While Thomas Edison was not the inventor of the first light bulb, he came up with the technology that helped bring it to the masses. Edison was driven to perfect a commercially practical, efficient incandescent light bulb following English inventor Humphry Davy's invention of the first early electric arc lamp in the early 1800s.

Thomas Edison died because of complications of diabetes on October 18, 1931, in his home, "Glenmont," in West Orange, New Jersey. He was 84 years old. By the time he died he was one of the most well-known and respected Americans in the world. Many communities and corporations throughout the world dimmed their lights or briefly turned off their electrical power to commemorate his passing.

Answer the questions!

1. When and where was Thomas Alva Edison born?

2. What are his parents' names?

3. How many siblings did he have?

4. Who was the person who influenced him the most?

5. With whom did he learn after he quit studying at school?

6. How many inventions of Thomas Edison were admitted?

7. What was his first patent?

8. Why did Thomas die?

9. How old was Thomas Edison when he passed away?

10. Who was the first inventor of the light bulb?

11. What did the people do when he died to commemorate his death?

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