

Thomas Edison

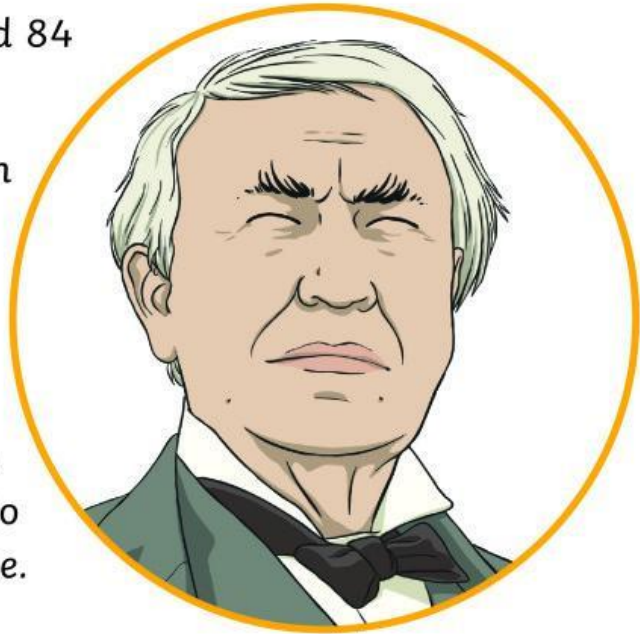
Born: 11th February, 1847

Died: 18th October, 1931 aged 84

Childhood

Thomas Edison was born in America.

He had hearing problems from having an illness called scarlet fever when he was young. His mother was a teacher, so he did not go to school but was taught at home.



Getting a Job

He got his first job by accident. He saved a 3 year-old boy from being hit by a train, and the boy's father was so thankful, he gave Thomas a job as a telegraph operator.

A telegraph operator: a person who operates a telephone switchboard.

At 19 years old, Thomas got a new job. He worked at night so that he could do his experiments. One night he spilt sulphuric acid on the floor and it dripped through the wooden floor boards onto the desk of his boss below. Thomas Edison lost his job!

First Invention

Thomas Edison's first invention was finished in 1877 – the phonograph. This was a machine that could record and replay sound. The sound was played through a large horn.

Suddenly, Thomas Edison became famous.

Thomas Edison

An Amazing Man

Thomas Edison was a very careful worker. He thought hard about all the different things that could go wrong and how to put things right.



The Electric Lightbulb

Thomas wanted to invent a light that did not need oils or gas to be lit. Edison created a lightbulb that would stay lit using electricity for $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours!

His Legacy

Thomas Edison died in 1931; he was 84 years old. Almost everyone in the world has used at least one of his inventions: the electric lightbulb. We are still using them today, almost 100 years later!



Edison with his phonograph invention.

Thomas Edison Questions

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. Where was Thomas Edison from?

2. What does a telegraph operator do?

3. What did Thomas Edison spill on the floor?

4. What was Thomas Edison's first invention?

5. How many hours did his first electric lightbulb stay lit for?

6. Name one thing about Edison that made him a great inventor.

7. What year did he die?

8. What are we still using today, almost 100 years after his death?
