

# Thomas Edison

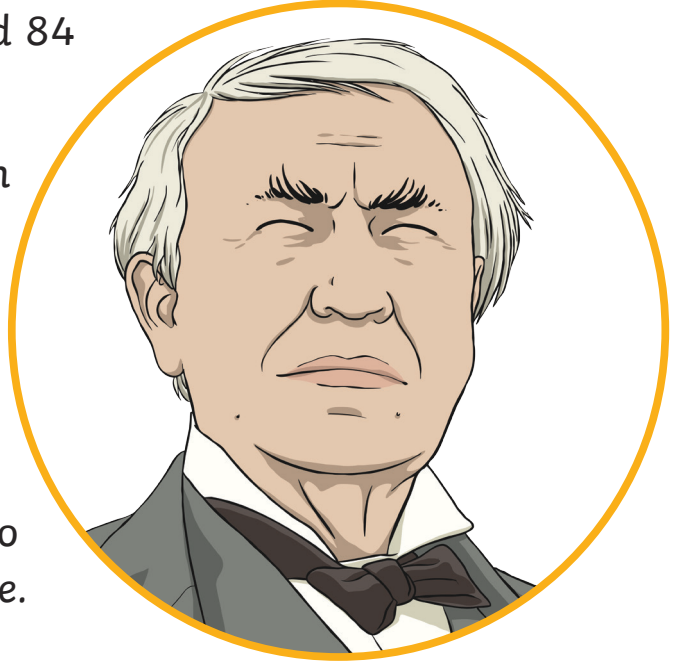
**Born:** 11th February, 1847

**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?

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2. What does a telegraph operator do?

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3. What did Thomas Edison spill on the floor?

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4. What was Thomas Edison's first invention?

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

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

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7. What year did he die?

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

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# Thomas Edison Answers

1. Where was Thomas Edison from?

**Thomas Edison was from America.**

2. What does a telegraph operator do?

**A telegraph operator controls a telephone switchboard.**

3. What did Thomas Edison spill on the floor?

**Thomas Edison spilt sulphuric acid on the floor.**

4. What was Thomas Edison's first invention?

**Thomas Edison's first invention was the phonograph.**

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

**His first electric lightbulb stayed lit for 13 ½ hours.**

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

**Any of the following: careful worker/ thought hard/ worked hard to improve things.**

7. What year did he die?

**He died in 1931.**

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

**We are still using the electric lightbulb almost 100 years after his death.**

# Thomas Edison

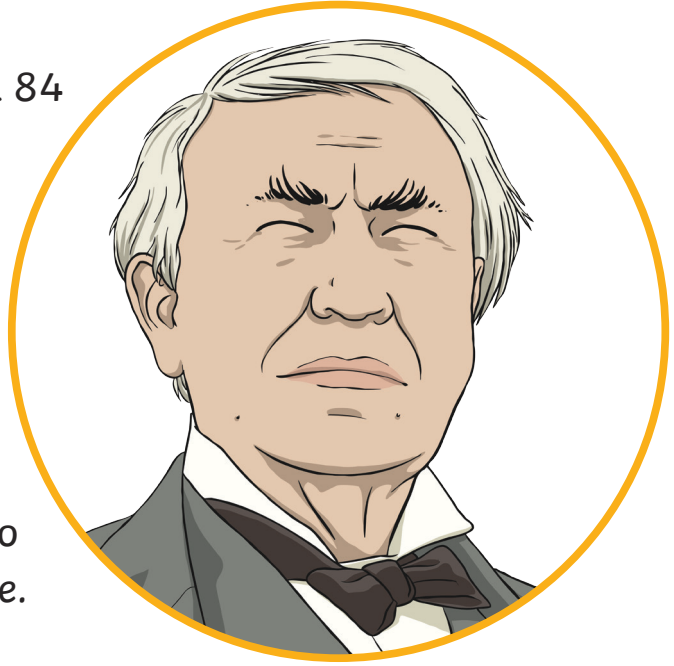
Born: 11th February, 1847

Died: 18th October, 1931 aged 84

## Childhood

Thomas Edison was born in Ohio, America.

As a child he had hearing problems from the illness scarlet fever. 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 grateful that 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 wanted to work at night so that he could carry on with 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 in 1877 – the phonograph. This was a machine that could record and replay sound. The sound was played through a large horn.



# Thomas Edison

## An Amazing Man

Thomas Edison was a very careful worker. He thought hard about all the different things that could go wrong in a project and how to put things right. He managed to get very important people interested in his inventions and they gave money to help him, so that Thomas had the time to work on them properly.



## 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 in as much detail as you can and using full sentences.

1. Why did Thomas Edison have hearing problems?

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2. How did he get his first job as a telegraph operator?

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3. How did his boss find out he was doing experiments while he was at work?

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4. What was the name of the invention that could record sound?

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# Thomas Edison Questions

5. What did his electric lightbulb not need to work, that other previous lights did?

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6. Name one quality in Thomas Edison's character that made him a great inventor.

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7. How old was Thomas Edison when he died?

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8. Why should we be grateful to Thomas Edison?

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# Thomas Edison Answers

1. Why did Thomas Edison have hearing problems?

**Thomas Edison had hearing problems because he had scarlet fever as a child.**

2. How did he get his first job as a telegraph operator?

**He got his first job as a telephone operator because he saved a 3 year-old boy from being hit by a train and the boy's father was so grateful that he gave Edison a job.**

3. How did his boss find out he was doing experiments while he was at work?

**The boss found out that Thomas was doing experiments at work because he spilt sulphuric acid and it dripped through the floor onto the desk of his boss on the floor below.**

4. What was the name of the invention that could record sound?

**The phonograph was the name of the invention that could record sound.**

5. What did his electric lightbulb not need to work that other previous lights did?

**The electric lightbulb did not need oil or gas to work.**

6. Name one quality in Thomas Edison's character that made him a great inventor.

**Any one of the following: careful worker, thought hard, could get important people interested in his inventions.**

7. How old was Thomas Edison when he died?

**Thomas Edison was 84 years-old when he died.**

8. Why should we be grateful to Thomas Edison?

**We should be grateful to Thomas Edison because he invented electric lightbulbs and we are still using them almost 100 years later.**

# Thomas Edison

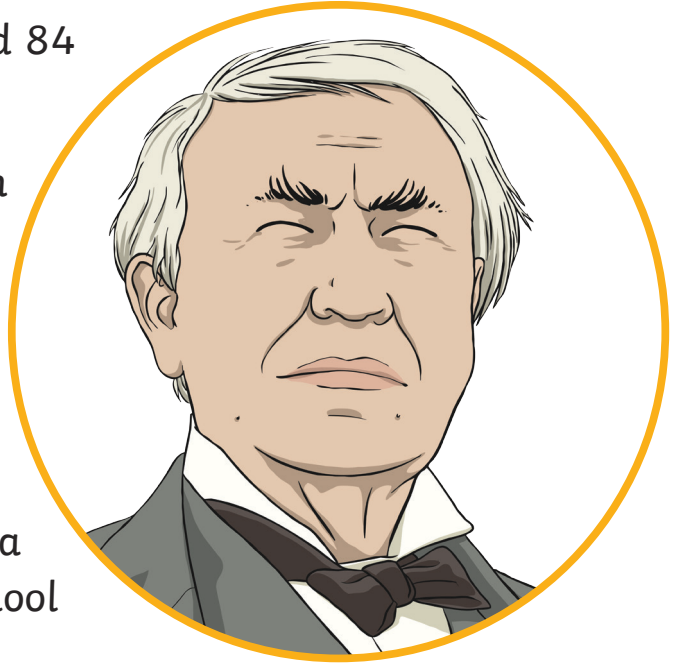
**Born:** 11th February, 1847

**Died:** 18th October, 1931 aged 84

## Childhood

Thomas Edison was born in Ohio, America. He was the seventh child of Samuel and Nancy Edison.

As a child, he had hearing problems from the illness scarlet fever. His mother was a teacher, so he did not go to school but was taught at home.



As a teenager, he sold candy and newspapers on trains. Quickly, he became quite a good businessman, and with four assistants started selling newspapers on the streets.

## Getting a Job

He got his first job by accident when he saved a 3 year-old boy from being hit by a train. The boy's father was so grateful that he gave Thomas a job as a telegraph operator.

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

At 19 years old, Thomas moved to Kentucky to start a new job. He chose to work at night so that he could carry on with his experiments. Unfortunately, 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!

# Thomas Edison

## First Invention

Thomas Edison's first invention was completed 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 very famous.



## The Electric Lightbulb

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

In 1879, he demonstrated this amazing invention to a group of people in Menlo Park. He then became known as the 'Wizard of Menlo Park'.

## An Amazing Man

Thomas Edison was a very careful worker, who went on to become one of the most famous inventors in history. He always thought carefully about all the different things that could go wrong in his projects and how to put them right. He managed to encourage very important people to support his inventions and put money into them, so that he had the time to work on them properly.

## His Legacy

Thomas Edison died in 1931 from problems with diabetes. 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!

# Thomas Edison Questions

Answer the following questions in as much detail as you can and using full sentences.

1. Why did Thomas Edison not go to school?

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2. Explain in your own words how Thomas Edison got his first job.

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3. Why did he want to work at night?

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4. What invention made Thomas famous and what did it do?

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# Thomas Edison Questions

5. Why did he want to invent the electric lightbulb?

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6. Why do you think he was known as the 'Wizard of Menlo Park'?

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7. Name two things about Thomas' character that helped him be a successful inventor.

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8. What are your thoughts about Thomas Edison?

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# Thomas Edison Answers

1. Why did Thomas Edison not go to school?

**Thomas Edison did not go to school because he had hearing difficulties from scarlet fever and his mother, who was teacher, taught him from home.**

2. Explain in your own words how Thomas Edison got his first job.

**Pupil's own response based on Thomas saving a 3 year-old boy from a train accident and the boy's father being so grateful that he gave Thomas a job.**

3. Why did he want to work at night?

**Thomas wanted to work at night so he could carry on with his experiments.**

4. What invention made Thomas famous and what did it do?

**The invention that made Thomas famous was the phonograph. It recorded and replayed sounds.**

5. Why did he want to invent the electric lightbulb?

**He wanted to invent the electric lightbulb so that lights did not need oils or gas to be lit.**

6. Why do you think he was known as the 'Wizard of Menlo Park'?

**Pupil's own response based on the electric light appearing to work like magic and that people thought that he was a wizard.**

7. Name two things about Thomas' character that helped him be a successful inventor.

**Any two of the following: he was a careful worker/ he thought carefully about all the different things that could go wrong in a project and how to put them right/ he managed to encourage very important people to support his inventions and put money into them.**

8. What are your thoughts about Thomas Edison?

**Pupil's own response based on the continued use of electric lightbulbs and Edison's fame today.**