

THOMAS ALVA EDISON

Thomas Alva Edison is one of the greatest inventors in history and was responsible for more inventions than any other inventor. He created the first research laboratory, which he called The Invention Factory, probably one of his greatest achievements. Altogether he took out patents on 1093 inventions. Some of his inventions developed and improved other people's. Edison was born on February 11, 1847 in the historic city of Milan (Ohio). His father was a versatile person and a man-of-all-work, while his mother was a teacher. Edison was mostly homeschooled by his mother. Edison became a salesman of fruit, paper and other goods on the Grand Trunk Railroad at a tender age of 12. With the help of his tiny handpress in a trash car, he wrote and published the *Grand Trunk Herald* in 1862, which was sent to 400 railroad employees. The same year Edison worked as a telegraph operator, trained by the father of a kid whose life he had saved. Edison was a tramp telegrapher, as he was exempted from military service due to his deafness. He was recruited in 1868 by Western Union Telegraph Company in Boston. Edison's favourite invention was the phonograph, in 1877. He regarded it as a toy, and designed toys that used the device, including talking dolls and children's pianos. He improved it so that it could record and play music. Starting in 1878, Edison and the muckers worked on one of his greatest achievements. The *electric light system* was more than just the incandescent lamp, or "light bulb." Edison also designed a system of power plants that make the electrical power and the wiring that brings it to people's homes. Another Edison invention was the Kinetoscope, a box containing a strip of photographs. When one looked into the box while the strip was moved, the objects in the photos appeared to be moving. He later invented the Edison Moving Picture Machine, an early cinema projector." The inventions made here changed the way we live even today. He worked here until his death on October 18, 1931, at the age of 84.

THOMAS ALVA EDISON TIMELINE

1847-Thomas Edison is born

Thomas Edison was born in Ohio on February 11. His family later moved to Michigan.

1859 Thomas sets up one of his first chemistry labs

As a boy, Thomas Edison worked with the Grand Trunk Railroad. He set up his very own chemistry lab on board the train.

1867 Thomas Edison begins his first of many experiments

Throughout the Civil War Thomas worked as a wire operator. He became familiar with the telegraph instruments and started experimenting with them.

1868 Thomas Edison files his first patent

After beginning work with Western Union, Thomas invented an automatic vote recorder. He filed his very first patent for this machine.

1870 Edison becomes a full time inventor

He moved to New Jersey and used all of his money and time to work on new inventions. He invented several stock market machines during this time.

1871 Thomas Edison gets married to Mary Stillwell

Mary was one of Thomas's employees in New Jersey. They were married on Christmas Day.

1874 A new invention for Western Union

Thomas invented a new telegraph system for Western Union that could send four telegraphs at once.

1875 Edison invents the first version of a copy machine

Thomas called his invention the electric pen. It was an early form of a copy machine.

1877 Thomas invents the phonograph

Thomas invented the phonograph, which played music. He later improved the phonograph, and made it cheap enough for the general public to afford.

1877 The carbon transmitter is invented

Thomas Edison invented the carbon transmitter, which was used in the telephone and helped it work much better. The carbon discovery helped pave the way for Edison's most well-known invention.

1879 Edison invents the carbon-powered lamp

Using the power of carbon, Edison invented a lamp that lit without the use of oil and fire.

1880 Edison works toward widespread electricity

Thomas opened an industrial park to figure out how to spread electricity to the public.

1883 Electricity goes public

Edison moved across the east, helping cities to install electricity for the people.

1892 General Electric is established

Thomas Edison merged his electric company with The Thomson-Houston Company to form General Electric.

1900 Thomas Edison invents the battery

Thomas began working on a way to store energy for use when electricity wasn't available. He eventually came up with the battery.

1931 **Thomas Edison dies**

Thomas Edison died on October 18, and the country dimmed their lights in his honor on the day of his funeral. Thomas's inventions changed the way our world worked, and he gave us some of our most prized conveniences-electricity, batteries, and even a way to listen to music!

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