

# Thomas Alva Edison

## The Inventor



By Tammi Austin

# Personal Information

- ✦ Thomas Edison is best known for perfecting the incandescent light bulb.
- ✦ Thomas Edison was born in February 11, 1847 in Milan Ohio.
- ✦ Mary Stillwell was Edison's first wife. She died in 1884. They had three children.
- ✦ He married Mina Miller in 1886 and had three more children.

# His Passion

- ✦ Creating experiments was Thomas Edison's passion.
- ✦ Thomas Edison created 1,093 inventions.
- ✦ He was still inventing when he died on October 18, 1931.
- ✦ He was 84 years old.



# Education

- ✦ Thomas Edison attended a formal school for only a short time when he was seven years old.
- ✦ His mother was a teacher and taught him to love reading. She did not like strict ways and decided to home school her son.
- ✦ Love for experimenting and mechanical things developed when Edison received his first chemistry set.



# The Light Bulb

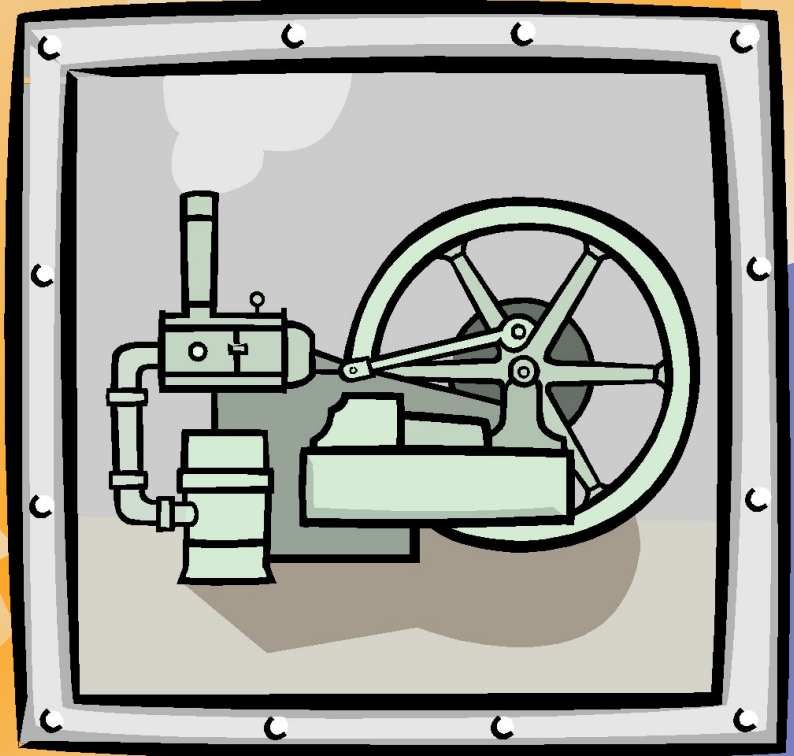
## The Light Bulb

- ✦ Edison began work on the light bulb in 1877.
- ✦ This led to the 1<sup>st</sup> commercial light system; constructed in Manhattan.
- ✦ Edison gave the company his patents in exchange for large amounts of stock.



# Edison's Other Inventions

- ★ Motion Picture Camera (kinetograph)
- ★ Talking Doll
- ★ Electric Motor
- ★ A Telegraph
- ★ Storage Battery
- ★ Motion Picture Viewer (kinetoscope)



# The Phonograph

- ✦ The phonograph was Edison's favorite invention, patented in 1878.
- ✦ It was developed due to his involvement with the telegraph and the telephone.
- ✦ Edison wanted a phonograph in every home.
- ✦ The first phonograph used tin foil on a cylinder, Edison recorded *Mary Had A Little Lamb*

# Patents

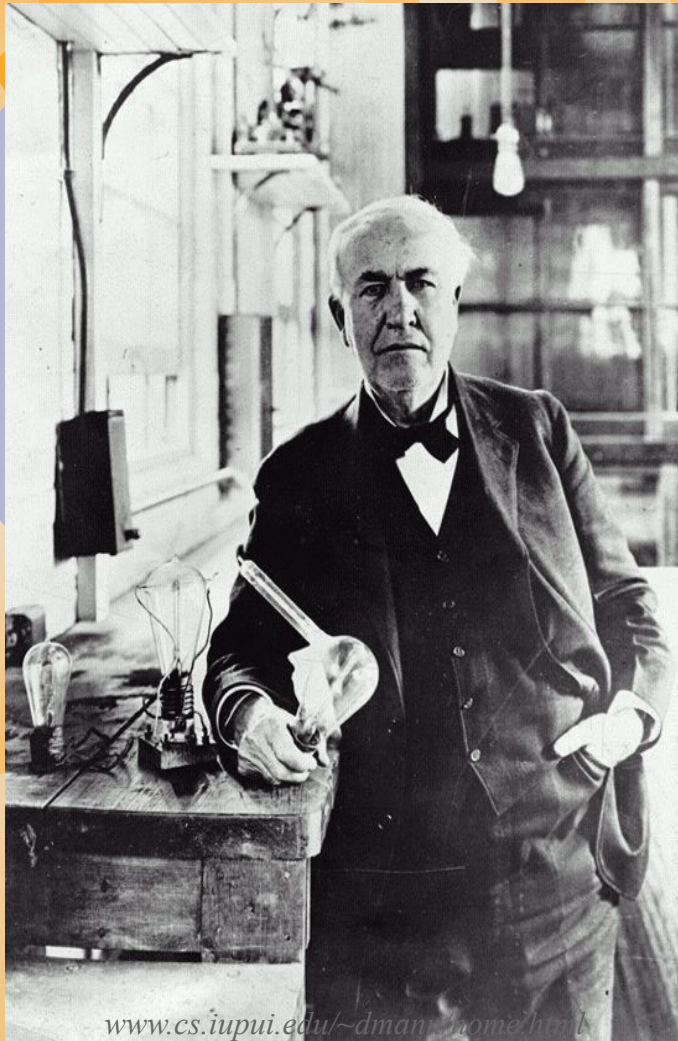
- ✦ The patent was created to protect a person's invention from being copied, sold or used without the inventor's permission.
- ✦ The first United States patent law was passed in 1790.
- ✦ Since 1836 over four million patents have been granted in the United States.
- ✦ A patent is valid for 14-17 years.
- ✦ Edison held 1,093 patents for his inventions.



# Edison's Companies

- ★ 1859 Grand Truck Herald
- ★ 1870 Newark Telegraph Works
- ★ 1878 Edison Speaking Phonograph Co.
- ★ 1878 Edison Electric Light Co.
- ★ 1881 Edison Ore Mining Co.
- ★ 1889 Edison Portland Cement Co.
- ★ 1896 National Phonograph Co.
- ★ 1911 Thomas A. Edison, Inc.

# Interesting Facts



[www.cs.iupui.edu/~dman/home.html](http://www.cs.iupui.edu/~dman/home.html)

- ★ Thomas Edison lived through the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I and the beginning of the Great Depression.
- ★ Edison was mostly deaf. He lost most of his hearing at the age of twelve when a conductor pulled him onto a train by his ears.
- ★ He did not let his disability stop his love of learning.

# Comprehension Questions

- ✦ Name three of Thomas Edison's inventions:
- ✦ What is a patent?
- ✦ Name one interesting fact concerning Thomas Alva Edison:

“Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.”

Thomas Edison



# Work Cited

## Books

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Young Edison

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Edison With Invention

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