



Thomas Edison

Perhaps you know him best as a famous inventor. He was a great scientist. And he was a hard worker. His name is Thomas Edison.

Edison was born in 1847 in Ohio, USA. He loved to read. He read all kinds of books. In fact, reading was what helped him become interested in science.

As a boy, Edison lost all of the hearing in his left ear. He lost 80 percent of the hearing in his right ear, too. But he continued learning and working hard. Even as a child, he liked experimenting and inventing. He also liked technology. As a teenager, he worked as a telegraph operator. A telegraph was a communication device. It helped people to send messages across long distances.

As an adult, Edison moved to Boston. He continued working as a telegraph operator. In his free time, he worked on new inventions. He did so well at inventing that he soon left his job. He spent all of his time inventing.

In total, Edison made 1,093 inventions. Today, he is best known for improving the light bulb. But in his time, he became famous for creating the phonograph. It was the first kind of machine to play music. Record players, also called *turntables*, are based on Edison's phonograph.

During World War I, the United States government asked Edison for help. He made inventions to help ships and submarines find enemy ships and guns. These inventions helped protect the USA.

In 1931, Edison passed away, or died, at the age of 84. He is best remembered by the words: "Genius is one percent **inspiration**, 99 percent perspiration." This saying means that good ideas come from hard work.

Answer comprehension questions on page 218.



*biography, technology, USA,
scientists, history*

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