

Lesson #95

Thomas Edison, Inventor (1847–1931)

Thomas Edison is often called the greatest inventor of all time. He was born in Milan, Ohio in 1847. Even at a young age, Edison was curious. He read science books and learned to use the telegraph, a device that sent messages along a wire. He worked as a telegrapher. He also worked to improve the technology of the telegraph. All of this led him to become a full-time inventor.

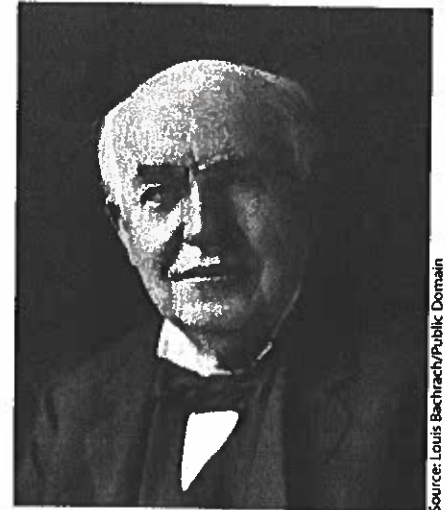
Edison had his first breakthrough in 1877. He created the **phonograph**, a tinfoil-coated contraption with a needle. The phonograph recorded sounds and played them back. It was Edison's favorite invention and the one that made him famous. "Mary had a little lamb" was the first sentence Edison recorded. When he heard his words repeated back, he was thrilled. Edison could not wait to sell phonographs. In 1878, he started the Edison Speaking Phonograph Company.

With the phonograph, people could listen to recorded music. However, Edison knew it could do much more. Blind people could use it to enjoy novels. Students could use recordings to learn other languages. People could record letters instead of writing them. The technology could be part of toys, such as music boxes. Over time, Edison and others made improvements to the device.

In the meantime, the inventor moved on to his next breakthrough, the **incandescent light bulb**. This type of light bulb contains a wire that is heated by electricity until it glows. This was how the bulb gave off light. Edison's design was the first to be widely used in people's homes. It produced enough light to read and work after dark and stayed lit for hours. It did not use a flame. Before that, people had to light candles or burn kerosene lamps to light their homes.

Edison worked on light switches, wiring, and other things people needed in order to use light bulbs in their homes. Eventually, he set up an even greater business than his first one. The Edison Electric Illuminating Company of New York was the start of the electric utility system. Today, electric utility systems power electrical devices all over the world.

Edison created many other useful inventions, including the motion picture camera and alkaline batteries. His inventions are things people still use and rely on today. Thomas Edison loved inventing. It truly was his life's work.



Source: Louis Bachrach/Public Domain

E-Learning #2

1. What were some of the things Thomas Edison invented?

telegraph phonograph light bulb kerosene lamp alkaline batteries

2. Choose one of Edison's inventions. Explain how it made life better for people.

3. What opportunity did Edison see that let him know the phonograph would be successful?

- A) Most people enjoyed saying nursery rhymes.
- B) Most people had become tired of sending messages by telegraph.
- C) Edison knew people wanted to be able to heat their homes with light bulbs.
- D) He knew the phonograph would have many uses besides playing music.

4. What industries grew because of Edison's inventions?

- A) the electric utility system
- B) the motion picture industry
- C) the electric lighting industry
- D) all of these

5. What makes Ohio a great location for businesses?

- A) Ohio has nearly 10,000 registered airports and heliports.
- B) The Ohio River and Lake Erie connect Ohio with the world.
- C) Ohio is an important center for intermodal shipping.
- D) all of these

6. Match each term with its clue.

_____ benefit
_____ opportunity
_____ investor
_____ productive resources
_____ consumers
_____ risk

- A) people who buy goods and services
- B) a desirable outcome; something good
- C) a danger; something bad may happen
- D) a chance to be successful
- E) person who lends money to a business
- F) everything a business uses to make goods or provide services

Name _____ Date _____

E-Learning #2

Multiply.

1. $7 \times 10 =$

1. _____

2. $3 \times 300 =$

2. _____

3. $5 \times 2,000 =$

3. _____

4.
$$\begin{array}{r} 23 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

4. _____

5.
$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

5. _____

6.
$$\begin{array}{r} 37 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6. _____

7.
$$\begin{array}{r} 143 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

7. _____

8.
$$\begin{array}{r} 2,467 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

8. _____

9.
$$\begin{array}{r} 508 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

9. _____

10. Jake's Fishing Company catches 358 fish a day. Round to the greatest place value and estimate the number of fish they catch in one week.

10. _____

11. Tucker uses 40 cherries in each pie. He needs to bake 8 cherry pies. How many cherries does Tucker need to bake his pies?

11. _____

12. A landscaping company is buying new lawn mowers. Each mower costs \$305. How much will 6 lawn mowers cost?

12. _____