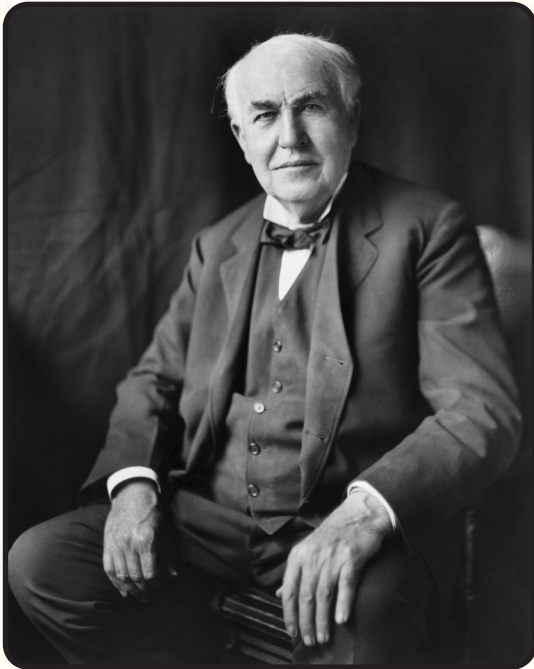


# Thomas Edison:

## the man who invented the future!



Introductory paragraph - Introduces the subject of the text

More than 150 years ago, inventors began working on a bright idea that would have a dramatic effect on how we use energy in our homes and offices. This invention changed the way we design buildings and infrastructure, improved productivity by increasing the length of the average workday, and jumpstarted new businesses, which relied on this invention. One of these inventors - the most influential of his

time was Thomas Edison. Born in the USA in 1847, Edison invented many things that have influenced how we live our lives today. These included the light bulb, the phonograph (the forerunner of the record player), the microphone and the telephone receiver.

Thomas Alva Edison's schooling surprisingly ended when he was just eight years old. His teacher, who had failed to see Edison's potential, told his mother that the boy's brain was "addled" (meaning confused and stupid). His mother (Nancy Edison), who was furious at what she had heard, took him out of school immediately and resolved to educate him herself. Although he seems to have briefly attended two more schools, nearly all his childhood learning took place at home. However, would you believe that this worked in his favour? Nancy Edison devoted all her time to educating and nurturing



her son, allowing him to follow his **curiosity**. He not only **had** the **opportunity** to plunge into great books written by famous authors **such as Shakespeare and Dickens**, he also performed chemistry experiments in his **self-built** laboratory in his cellar. **Nancy Edison's teachings** **allowed** Thomas to **grow as a scientist**, as Edison himself **had** put it: "My mother was the making of me. She understood me, she let me follow my bent."

Related information grouped together - paragraph about education

Many years later in 1876, Edison set up an invention factory at Menlo Park

(New Jersey, USA). This was a research

laboratory **where** Edison **and** his employees worked on several different inventions at

any given time. **It was there that Thomas Edison invented the phonograph** **his first**

**commercially successful invention** **and** the microphone **which both lead** **along with his**

**camera** to the creation of the first talking picture. It was after this that Edison invented

the most famous of his **devices**. Other inventors **had** laboured hard to make an electric

light that people could use **however** they **had** little success and were met with

disappointment. **If it were not for Edison's persistence** **and** resilience in the face of

repeated failure, he would **have never** succeeded in inventing a bulb **that burnt brightly**

**for 600 hours**, a **device** we still use in our homes today. **Alongside this**, he also created

## Fun Facts!

Edison **who was fascinated with the subject of sound** **was partially deaf**.

Edison improved **devices** that already existed, like the telephone.

Edison married his first wife on Christmas Day, 1871.

Edison was titled 'The man who invented the future' and the 'Wizard of Menlo Park'.

Edison built his first laboratory at the age of 10 in his basement.

Edison proposed to Mary Stillwell through Morse Code.

paragraph about inventions



other **equipment**, which made his bulb a practical invention, **generators**, **fuses** and **conduits**.

y5/6 word →

comma for clauses

relative clause

comma for a list →

dash for parenthesis

parenthesis

By the time of his death in 1931, he was responsible for nearly 1300 inventions. Edison believed that the secret of success was hard work and perseverance, famously quoting, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." It was this attitude and outlook that made him such an eminent scientist. On the eve of his death, all of the lights in the houses were turned off for a minute in his honour. In 1960, the USA recognised his amazing achievements by choosing him to be a member of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. Thomas Edison will forever be remembered as one of the most excellent and inspirational minds of past generations.

adverbial phrase to show time

comma for fronted adverbial

exclamation mark

inverted commas for quote

adverb of manner

quote

comma for fronted adverbial

adverbial phrase to show time

past tense

past tense →

passive voice →

adverbial phrase to show time →

comma for fronted adverbial

y5/6 word →

y5/6 word →

future tense

y5/6 word →

co-ordinating conjunction

concluding statement

