

Thomas Edison Fact File

Childhood

Thomas Edison was born in Ohio, America.

As a child he had hearing problems from the illness scarlet fever. His mother was a teacher, so he did not go to school but was taught at home.

Getting a Job

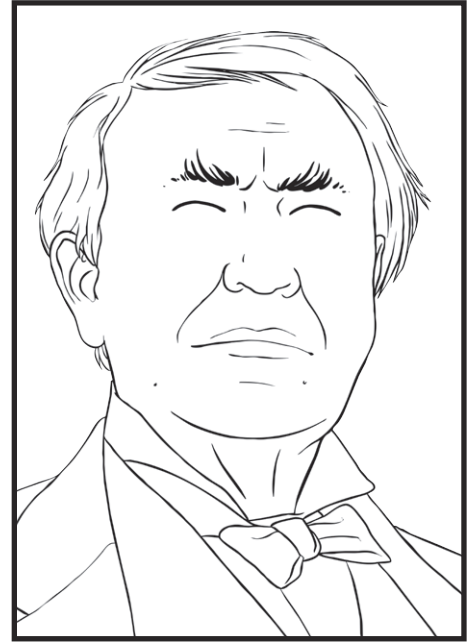
He got his first job by accident. He saved a three-year-old boy from being hit by a train, and the boy's father was so grateful that he gave Thomas a job as a telegraph operator.

At 19 years old, Thomas got a new job. He wanted to work at night so that he could carry on with his experiments. One night, he spilt sulphuric acid on the floor and it dripped through the wooden floorboards onto the desk of his boss below. Thomas Edison lost his job!

First Invention

Thomas Edison's first invention was in 1877 – the phonograph. This was a machine that could record and replay sound. The sound was played through a large horn.

Suddenly, Thomas Edison became very famous.

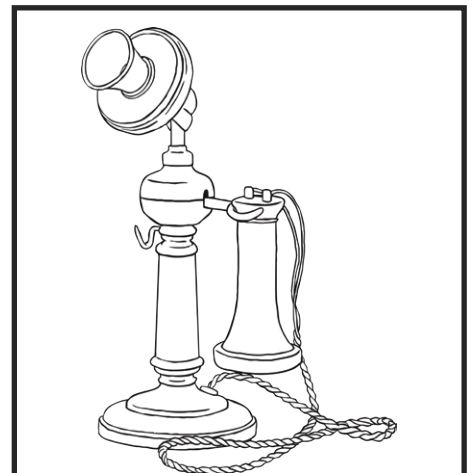


Born:

11th February, 1847

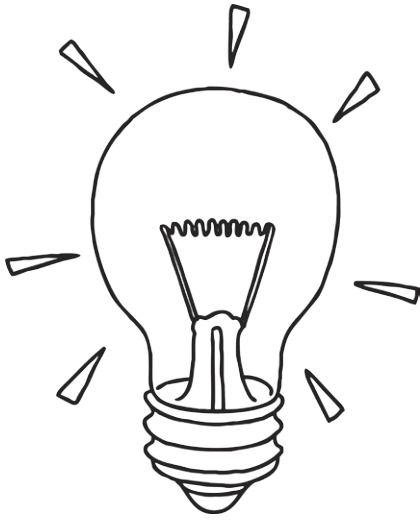
Died:

18th October, 1931
aged 84



A telegraph operator:
a person who
operates a telephone
switchboard.

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The Electric Lightbulb

Thomas wanted to invent a light that did not need oils or gas to be lit. Edison created a lightbulb that would stay lit using electricity for 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours!

An Amazing Man

Thomas Edison was a very careful worker. He thought hard about all the different things that could go wrong in a project and how to put things right. He managed to get very important people interested in his inventions and they gave money to help him, so that Thomas had the time to work on them properly.

His Legacy

Thomas Edison died in 1931; he was 84 years old. Almost everyone in the world has used at least one of his inventions: the electric lightbulb. We are still using them today, over 100 years later!



Edison with his phonograph invention.