



Thomas Edison



Read the passage below and answer the questions on the next page.

Thomas Edison was an American inventor and businessman who is considered one of the most influential inventors in history. He developed a wide range of products, including the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and the long-lasting light bulb. Edison's inventions revolutionized communication and entertainment around the world.

Edison was born in 1847 in Ohio. At a young age, he showed an interest in science and engineering, often experimenting with chemicals and electricity. He was homeschooled by his mother until the age of 12, when he started working as an apprentice to a telegrapher. Edison soon opened up his own business selling newspapers and candy on the Grand Trunk Railroad line.

In 1876, Edison moved from New Jersey to Menlo Park, where he set up a laboratory for invention and research. He began working on improvements for the telephone and other inventions. In 1879, Edison invented the incandescent light bulb which used electricity to produce light. This invention revolutionized lighting around the world and made it possible for people to work at night or indoors without natural light.

In addition to the light bulb, Edison is credited with inventing many other products such as the phonograph and the motion picture camera. He also held more than 1,000 patents for his inventions. His vast accomplishments earned him an honorary degree from Columbia University in 1887 and he was recognized by President John F. Kennedy with a posthumous citation as one of the greatest inventors in history.

Thomas Edison died in 1931 at his home in New Jersey but his inventions will continue to be remembered for years to come. Many modern-day technologies owe their existence, in part, to Edison's pioneering work. He was a true innovator who changed our lives forever with his brilliance and dedication.

1) What year was Thomas Edison born?

2) Where did he set up a laboratory for invention and research?

3) What was the name of the invention that revolutionized lighting around the world?

4) How was Thomas Edison honored by President John F. Kennedy?

5) What does modern-day technology owe part of its existence to?
