

# Thomas Edison

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamming to the radio riding the road with the wind blowing through your hair is an amazing experience. Flipping the light on in the darkness can bring light to whatever activity you are planning. Laughing at the latest movie in the movie theater can bring joy to many lives. Every person on Earth enjoys these experiences because of the genius of Thomas Edison.

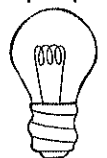
Thomas Edison was born in Milan, Ohio on February 11, 1847. The brilliance of Edison would come later in life in the eyes of many. Teachers would frequently find Edison daydreaming. Teachers even went so far as to say that he would never learn. Thomas's mother would then decide to teach him at their home. Thomas's mother made learning fun and taught Thomas how to read. He received a book of science experiments at the age of ten. He would try experiments in the family's basement.

Intrigued by telegraph operators at the train stations, he would pay special attention to messages that were sent from one place to another. Thomas eagerly wanted to learn how to send telegraphs. He would soon build his own telegraph. He and his friend would communicate by sending messages to one another.

"There is no substitute for hard work" Edison would express. He worked hard his entire life. He would work nights as a telegraph operator, so that he could work on inventions during the daytime. Thomas would open a lab in New Jersey in 1876. He would work so late that he would sleep on his work table. This genius would later describe a genius as "one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." Perspiration is a fancy word for sweat.

Singing "Mary Had a Little Lamb" into a newly created machine would create a mystifying result. The newly created machine would play back the same song he had just sung! He had created the phonograph. He would later make a machine that recorded pictures into a movie.

Darkness was turned into light. This is what Edison had done for the world in his next invention. He harnessed electricity so that it would light a light bulb. For the light bulb to light up he needed something inside the bulb that would glow when heated, but wouldn't melt. He would find the best filament he could in a piece of bamboo. He would continue to find ways to bring light to people everywhere. When he died in 1931, people turned off their lights for one minute to thank him for his genius, and changing our lives for the better.



**CIRCLE IT**

17. How will Thomas Edison be remembered?

d. Edison's finger

**WRITE IT:**

[illegible]