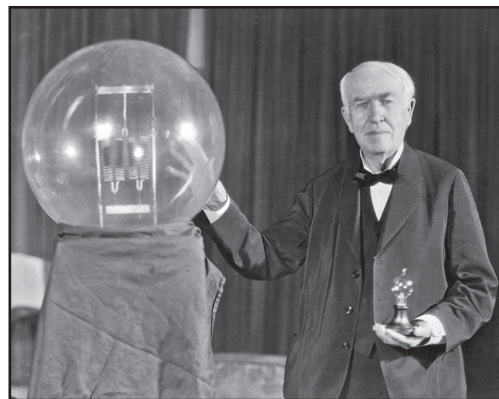


Unit 3 Cross-curricular worksheet

Technology: Thomas Edison

1 Read the text.



Thomas Edison was born in 1847 in Ohio, US. He was one of the world's greatest inventors and industrial leaders. Edison won 1,093 US **patents** for his inventions, more than anyone else in history. He invented the record player and the kinetoscope – a box for watching films. He also became very famous for his work on the light bulb.

When Edison started work on the light bulb, electrical lighting already existed but it was expensive and impractical for the home. Bulbs didn't last for very long and were quite expensive to buy.

Edison developed a bulb that could work for more than thirteen hours. He also invented the system that makes a light bulb work, including a **socket** with an on / off **switch**! By 1879, he had developed a more practical and longer-lasting light bulb.

Three years later, he started the first electrical **power station**. It provided a small number of homes in New York City with electricity. At first, electricity was only available at night time, but by the late 1880s, the houses had electricity for twenty-four hours a day. Soon there were power stations all over the US. Edison set up companies to make his inventions in the US and around the world. He was also very interested in industrial **research** and started the world's first industrial laboratory.

Edison achieved a lot through his talent and hard work. His famous words '**Genius** is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration' describe him very well.

2 Read the text again. Match definitions 1–6 to words a–f. Use your dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 Experiments to find out about something. | a power station |
| 2 A legal document that proves who invented something. | b research |
| 3 This provides electricity for homes, offices, etc. | c patent |
| 4 You press this to turn on an electrical item. | d genius |
| 5 An electrical item goes in this to get electricity. | e socket |
| 6 An extremely intelligent person. | f switch |

3 Read the text again. Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box.

achieved designed invented provided set up produced was

Edison ~~was~~ one of the world's greatest inventors.

- Edison _____ many different machines including the record player.
- Edison _____ a light bulb that worked well in homes.
- His first power station _____ a small number of homes with electricity.
- The first power station only _____ electricity at night time.
- Edison _____ lots of companies to produce his inventions.
- Edison _____ a lot in his life. He said, 'Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.'