

Thomas Edison was born February 11, 1847 in Milan, Ohio. He was nicknamed "Al" at an early age by friends and family. At age 11, Edison moved to Michigan where he spent the remainder of his childhood.

Thomas Edison struggled in school, but learned to love reading and conducting experiments from his mother who taught him at home. At age 15, Edison became a "tramp telegrapher", sending and receiving messages via morse code, an electronically-conveyed alphabet using different clicks for each letter. Eventually, he worked for the Union Army as a telegrapher. Edison often entertained himself by taking things apart to see how they worked. Soon, he decided to become an inventor.

In 1870, Edison moved to New York City and improved the stock ticker. He soon formed his own company that manufactured the new stock tickers. He also began working on the telegraph, and invented a version that could send four messages at once. Meanwhile, Edison married Mary Stillwell, had three children and moved his family to Menlo Park, New Jersey where he started his famous laboratory.

In 1877, Edison, with help from "muckers", individuals from around the world looking to make fortunes in America, invented the phonograph. The phonograph was a machine that recorded and played back sounds. He perfected the phonograph by recording "Mary had a Little Lamb" on a piece of tin foil! In 1878, Edison invented the light bulb as well as the power grid system, which could generate electricity and deliver it to homes through a network of wires. He subsequently started the Edison Electric Light Company in October of 1878.

In 1884, after he attained great fame and fortune, Mary Stillwell died. Edison remarried a 20-year-old woman named Mina Miller in 1886. He had three more children and moved to West Orange, New Jersey. At West Orange, Edison built one of the largest laboratories in the world. He worked extremely hard and registered 1,093 patents. Edison continued to invent or improve products and make significant contributions to x-ray technology, storage batteries and motion pictures (movies). He also invented the world's first talking doll. His inventions changed the world forever. They still influence the way we live today. Edison worked until his death on October 18, 1931.

The writer of this article more than likely thought what of Thomas Edison?

- a) Thomas E. was a terrible inventor
- b) Thomas E. was an inventor that helped change the world.

- c) Thomas E. was too busy with his work.
- d) Thomas E. used other people's inventions to become famous.

The writer of "Shock and Awful" more than likely felt that Thomas E. was what?

- a) Thomas E. was a skillful inventor.
- b) Thomas E. was a selfish, work obsessed individual.
- c) Thomas E. was a wonderful father and husband that made time to make incredible inventions.
- d) Thomas E. was a life changing individual.