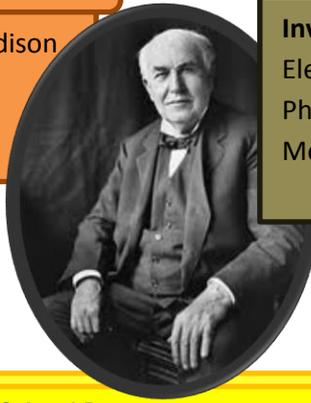


# Thomas Alva Edison

**Name:** Thomas Alva Edison

**Born:** 1847

**Died:** 1931



## Inventions

Electric Bulb

Phonograph

Motion Picture Camera



## School Days

Thomas Alva Edison's schooling ended when he was just eight years old. His teacher told his mother that the boy's brain was "addled" and his mother, furious, took him out of school. Despite his lack of formal education, Edison went on to become one of the world's greatest inventors.

In 1876, he set up an 'invention factory' at Menlo Park in New Jersey, USA. Other inventors had laboured hard to make an electric light that people could use in their homes, but without success. It was persistence that helped Edison succeed. After repeated failures to find a filament that would not break or melt or evaporate he finally found what he was looking for in carbonised thread. His bulb with its filament of scorched thread burnt brightly for 600 hours at its first trial. Along with the bulb, he also created generators, fuses, conduits and other equipment's, which made his bulb a practical invention rather than an interesting novelty. People were so impressed by his invention that they called him the 'Wizard of Menlo Park'.

He also invented the phonograph (the forerunner of the record player) and the microphone. In 1914 he connected the phonograph to a camera he had developed, to make a talking picture. Besides this he made improvements in the telephone and came close to inventing the radio.

## Mathematical Genius

Once, so the story goes, he wanted to get the internal measurements of an irregular glass bulb and asked one of his assistants, a mathematical expert, to help him. The expert sat at his desk and got down to work. A week passed. Edison asked him if he had found the measurements.

"No, sir," said the assistant. "It'll take another week."

"But why is it taking so long?" asked Edison. "It could be done in a minute. Let me show you how." He filled the bulb with water.

"Now pour the water in a measuring glass and you've got your answer," he told the astonished expert.

In 1960 his country honoured him by choosing him a Member of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

## Edison Fact-file

- Edison was fascinated with the subject of sound, even though, ironically, he was part deaf
- Edison spent most of his life's work improving devices that already existed, like the telephone, and only a few of his inventions were completely his own thought and research
- When he was in Primary School, Edison's teacher called him "Addled", meaning backward
- Edison married his first wife on Christmas Day, 1871
- Edison has been titled, 'The man who invented the future' and 'The Wizard of Menlo Park'
- When Edison died in 1931, all of the lights in houses and streets were turned off for a minute in honour of him
- Thomas Edison holds around 1,093 U.S. patents as well as many patents in the United Kingdom, Germany and France
- Edison built his first laboratory at the age of 10 in his basement
- Edison proposed marriage to his wife Mary Stillwell... through Morse Code!

Invention Factory

But Edison was not one to rest on his laurels. By the time of his death in 1931 he had patented nearly 1300 inventions! Edison believed that the secret of success was plain hard work. Indeed, he believed that genius was 'one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration'. But he detested analytical and plodding methods and preferred to tackle a problem head-on.

# Tutankhamun's Tomb



## Who Found His Tomb?

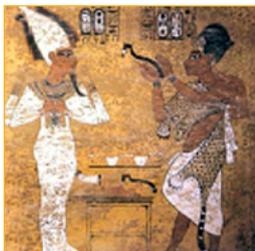
The tomb was found by a group of researchers lead by Howard Carter. The reason why Tutankhamun is one of the most famous and talked about pharaohs is because his tomb was only found in 1922, which means that all of the artefacts and the body inside have been left in very good condition. Carter knew where to look because he worked out from other important finds that the tomb would be in the Valley of the Kings. A cup found by a man named Theodore Davis, with Tutankhamun and his wife on it, was a clue that Carter said helped him find the tomb of the Boy King.

## What They Found Inside

Inside the tomb they found over 3000 artefacts that were put in for Tutankhamun to take with him into the afterlife. Many of the items were made from, or covered in, gold, only fitting for a king to own. The tomb itself was split into many different rooms. Most of the rooms were for the objects, apart from the burial chamber which just held his sarcophagus (a decorated stone coffin).

## Decoration

The burial chamber with the body is the only decorated room in the tomb, which is very unusual for a resting place for a king.



Normally, all the walls would be carved or painted, which is how we know that Tutankhamun died very suddenly. Many historians also believe that the tomb itself was not made for him in the first place and the burial chamber and decorations were added later.

The images on the walls were from a ritual called the 'opening of the mouth'.

## The Curse of the Mummy!

The curse of the mummy started after Tutankhamun's tomb was opened. Mummies have been thought to have magical powers over any who disturb them. It started with Lord Carnarvon; the man who paid for the dig of King Tut's tomb died soon after it was opened. As soon as he died, all the lights in Cairo went out mysteriously. Other stories are that Carter's pet canary was killed by a cobra and Carnarvon's dog died the same night. Some think it was a germ but others say it was magic.



# Queen Elizabeth II

## About Queen Elizabeth II:

Queen Elizabeth II is significant because she has many roles.

She is:

- Head of the Church of England and appoints Bishops and Archbishops on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Head of the Armed Forces and is the only person who can declare and end war with other countries.
- Head of State and has to travel abroad on official State Visits.
- She meets with other Heads of States around the world and lays down a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.
- She is Head of the Commonwealth, and has visited Commonwealth countries on more than 200 trips.
- She often opens or closes the Commonwealth games.



## Interesting Facts

- The Queen has a special song about her called 'The National Anthem'.
- Queen Elizabeth II has celebrated her Golden and Diamond Jubilees.
- Her Majesty has served for 64 years so far and is the longest-reigning monarch!
- The Queen has two birthdays: when she was really born and the second Saturday of June to celebrate Her Majesty becoming Queen.
- Queen Elizabeth is the first queen to become 90 years old.



## Date of coronation:

2nd June 1953.



## Date of birth:

21st April 1926.

