

AMAZING INVENTIONS OF THOMAS EDISON

Imagine a time when the only music you could listen to was at a concert. The light you needed for reading came from a flickering candle. There was no way to take pictures of moving things, so there were no movies. That's what it was like for a young boy named Thomas Edison. He grew up in the 1850s in Michigan in the USA.

Things changed. When Thomas Edison grew up, he invented things. Those inventions changed how people lived.

Edison's early inventions earned him money. He soon had enough money to open a laboratory. He hired people to work with him on his inventions.

His first amazing invention came in 1877. Edison invented the phonograph, or record-player. The phonograph had a cylinder, or tube-like part, made of tin foil. On his phonograph, Edison could record, or copy, sounds. The first message he recorded was 'Mary had a little lamb'.

Phonographs changed the way people listened to music. Now they could play music at home. They could play music whenever they wanted to. The phonograph made Edison famous all over the world.

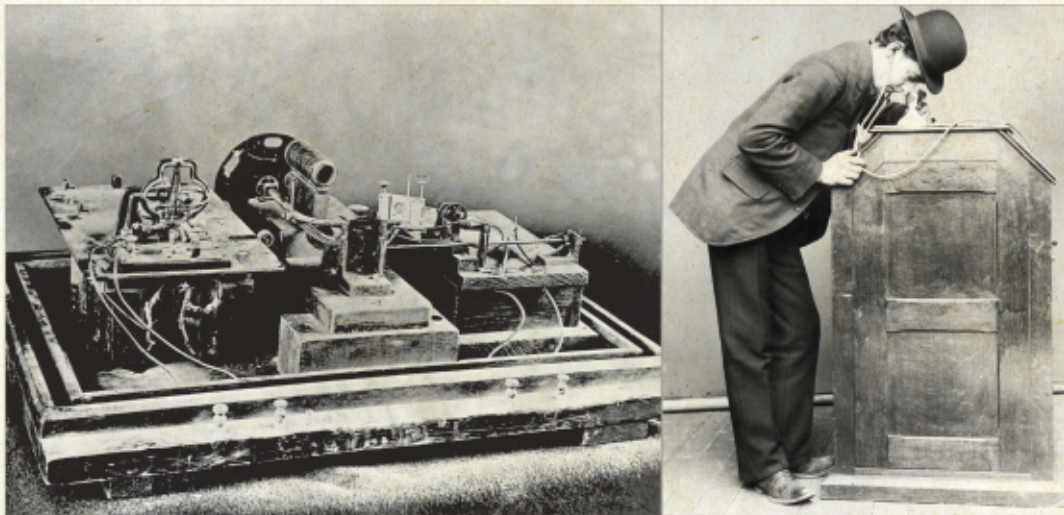


Thomas Edison is pictured with the first phonograph.

A few years later, Edison invented a new kind of electric light bulb. His light bulb was better than the others in use at that time. Electricity was expensive. Edison's light bulbs used very little electricity. More people could afford to use them. Edison's light bulbs gave off a steady, soft light. People enjoyed reading by electric light instead of by the light of a flickering candle.

Edison's team made another great invention. They created the motion picture camera and viewer. With the camera, people could take pictures of moving things. Then they could use the viewer to watch the moving picture played back. After that, Edison and his team developed the world's first film studio. Around 1200 films were made at that studio.

How excited people must have been with Edison's inventions! Imagine hearing sounds from a phonograph for the first time. Imagine having steady, soft electric light at home for the first time. Imagine watching a movie for the very first time. It must have been an incredible experience!



*Edison called the motion picture camera he and his team invented a Kinetograph.
The viewer was called a Kinetoscope.*