

125
YEARS
of ELECTRIC
INNOVATION

EDISON FACTS

Did You Know?

- Thomas Edison was born on February 11, 1857, in Milan, Ohio.
- Edison was partially deaf.
- At age 10, Edison built his first science laboratory in the basement of his family's home.
- More patents were issued to Edison than have been issued to any other person in U.S. history: 1,093.
- The first invention that Edison tried to sell was an electric vote recorder.
- The phonograph was Edison's favorite invention.
- In 1879, Edison invented the first incandescent light bulb.
- Edison tested over 6,000 vegetable growths (baywood, boxwood, hickory, cedar, flax, bamboo) as filament material in his light bulbs.
- Edison set up the Pearl Street Central Power Station, the world's first "electric light-power station" in lower Manhattan.
- Edison's Pearl Street plant powered one square mile of Lower Manhattan, providing service to 59 customers for approximately 24 cents per kilowatt-hour.
- By 1889, the Pearl Street Station had evolved from a nighttime generator to a 24-hour facility, and expanded to become Edison General Electric.
- Edison began operation of the first passenger electric railway in the country at Menlo Park.
- Edison was nicknamed the "Wizard of Menlo Park".
- In 1913, Edison introduced the first talking moving pictures.
- Edison coined the phrase, "Genius is one percent inspiration, 99 percent perspiration."
- Edison passed away when he was 84 years old, on Sunday, October 18, 1931.
- When Edison was born, electricity had not been developed. By the time he died, entire cities were lit by electricity.



EDISON ELECTRIC
INSTITUTE

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