

**Thomas Alva Edison**  
**1847-1931**

- I. Introduction
  - A. One of the greatest inventors in American history.
  - B. Played a critical role in introducing the modern age of electricity
  - C. Held 1093 patents
    - 1. phonograph
    - 2. incandescent lamp
    - 3. first commercial electric light and power system
    - 4. experimental electric railroad
    - 5. motion picture industry
    - 6. alkaline battery
  - D. He created the world's first industrial-research laboratory
  
- II. Early Years
  - A. Born Feb. 11, 1847 in Milan, Ohio
  - B. Seventh and last child of Samuel Edison, Jr. ,a carpenter, and Nancy
  - C. Hearing problems
  - D. In 1854 Edisons moved to Michigan where he entered school
  - E. Quit school at age 12
  - F. Trainboy for Michigan Central Railroad
  - G. Learned telegraph
  - H. Telegraphs changed from tape to sound
  - I. Invented duplex telegraph
  - J. Quit job to become an entrepreneur
  - K. In 1870 moved to New York
    - 1. Invented the quadruplex
    - 2. Jay Gould paid \$100,000
    - 3. Largest payment ever for an invention (age 27)
  
- III. Menlo Park
  - A. In 1871 married Mary Stilwell (ages 24 and 16)
  - B. In 1876 Father built laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.
  - C. In 1877 invented the phonograph
  - D. Wizard of Menlo Park
  - E. On December 3, 1879 invented the incandescent electric light
    - 1. J. P. Morgan
    - 2. Vanderbilt family
    - 3. Francis Upton
    - 4. World's first permanent commercial central power system in lower Manhattan
  
- IV. Motion Pictures
  
- IV. Died October 18, 1931 at age 84
  - A. Rags to riches
  - B. Egotist
  - C. Workaholic
  - D. Neglected his family
  - E. Mourned around the world at his death