

Poster 5

Read the biography.

Thomas Edison (1847–1931)

Thomas Edison was born in Ohio, USA, in 1847. He didn't go to school. His mother taught him at home. Edison was very clever and he liked reading. He was very interested in science and he was always trying to find out how things worked.

Edison moved to New York when he was 22. To begin with, he didn't have any money, but he was very good at mending machines, so he soon found work. Soon after, he invented his first machine. He was paid a lot of money for his invention, so he built a laboratory. He found a team of people to work for him and do lots of experiments on lots of different things.

During the late 1870s, Edison and his team worked very hard and Edison invented several new machines. In 1877, he invented the first machine which could record sound. Then he decided to invent an electric light. Edison wanted to make a light bulb which could work for a long time. He succeeded on 22 October 1879. Later, he made an electricity system so that people could use the new electric bulb. In 1882, people in New York had electric lights in their homes for the first time.

Over the years, Edison invented many more machines. He invented a camera which could record moving pictures. He won several awards and he started lots of businesses. His most successful business was General Electric, which is still successful today.

Now, people all over the world have electric lights in their homes. We watch films and we listen to recorded music. We can do all of these things because of Thomas Edison. His wonderful inventions changed lives all over the world.



Poster 6

Read the research report.

The Internet by Lee Nichols

For my research project, I wanted to find out about the Internet. The Internet is used by over a billion people from all around the world. With the Internet, you can find out information, write to friends and download music. I wanted to find out how it works.

How to understand the Internet

A good way to understand how the Internet works is to think about all the computers in your school. All the computers share a space where you can put in and get out information and pictures. This space is called a network. All the computers in the school are connected to this.

Now, imagine that a friend from a different school uses a different network and you want to share information from your different networks. To do this, you both connect your computers to a device called a modem. The modem allows your computers to share information from different networks. This is called 'inter-networking' which is also called the Internet! It is a way of sending information from one computer to another computer anywhere in the world!

Who invented the Internet?

In the 1960s, a group of scientists from the US wanted an easy way to share information and ideas with other scientists around the world. They created a way to link networks. Over the next 20 years, businesses and universities joined until they made a big web of connected networks. Then, in the 1990s, ordinary people started to use it, too.

Who owns the Internet?

No one owns the Internet. Computer scientist Carl Dalton explains why. "No one actually owns the Internet because it is just a connection of different networks. There are lots of organizations, governments and schools that own a part of it, but no one owns the whole system." So, the Internet belongs to everyone!

