

# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



Do you know who discovered  
electricity?

# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



Electricity is a natural force and therefore did not need to be invented. Benjamin Franklin was the first person to experiment with how electricity could be used. He flew a kite in a storm to prove that electricity could flow, and it did! The electricity hit the kite and flowed through to a metal key he was holding (Luckily, he didn't get hurt!).



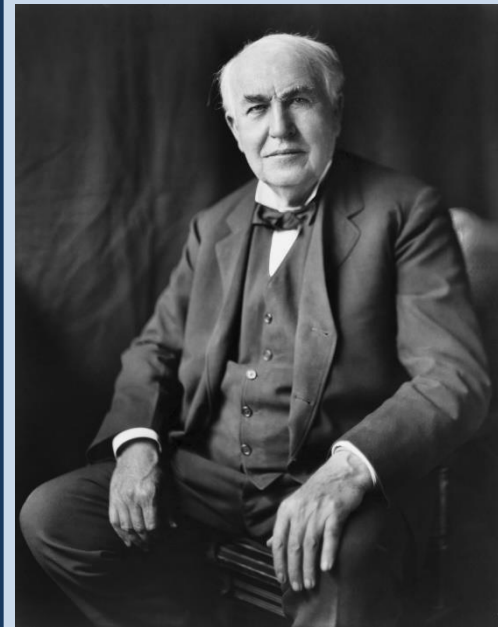
# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



Today, we are going to focus on somebody else who was important in regards to our topic, Thomas Edison.

Have you heard of him?  
Why is he famous?



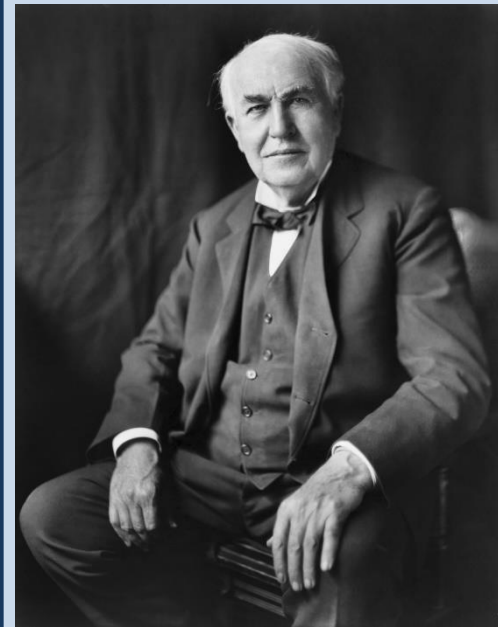
# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



Thomas Edison was a famous inventor. Using electricity, he created inventions that still have a large impact on our lives today.

He was born in Ohio, America on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1847. He died on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1931 at the age of 84.



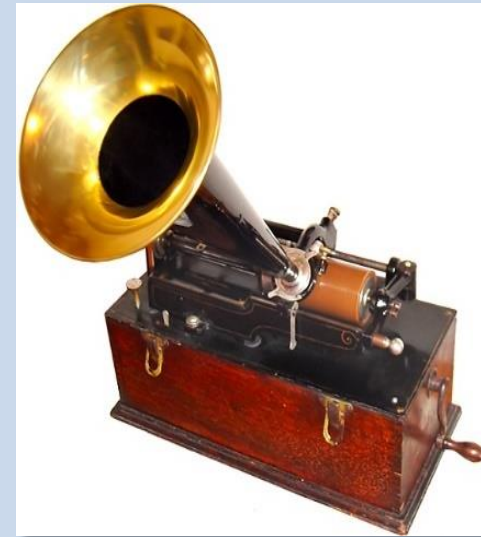
# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



### First invention

Thomas Edison's first invention was in 1877 and was a phonograph. This machine recorded and played sound, and he first tried it by singing the nursery rhyme 'Mary had a little lamb'. He was amazed when it played his singing back to him. It was the first example of a talking tin!



# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



### The light bulb

Thomas Edison is arguably most famous for his invention of the electric light bulb. Although we take light bulbs for granted today, this was a huge step back in the 1870's. People used to use candles or oil lamps for light.

Why do you think these were not ideal?



A Victorian oil lamp

# Year 4 History

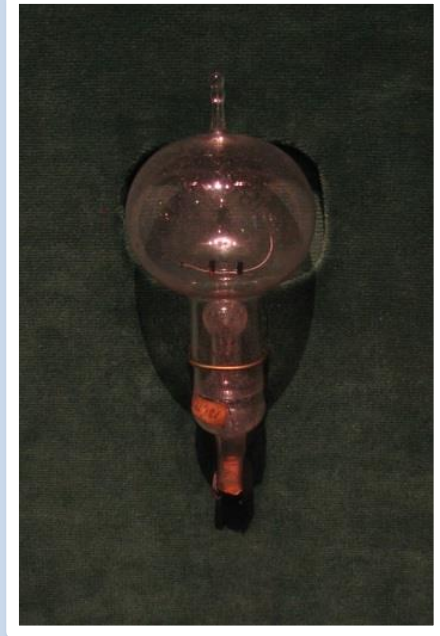
## History of electricity



### The light bulb

Candles and oil lights didn't produce a great deal of light. More importantly, we get oil from the ground and there is only so much of it.

This is why electricity is so important, because it can be created we can protect the natural resources we have better!



An example of an early light bulb

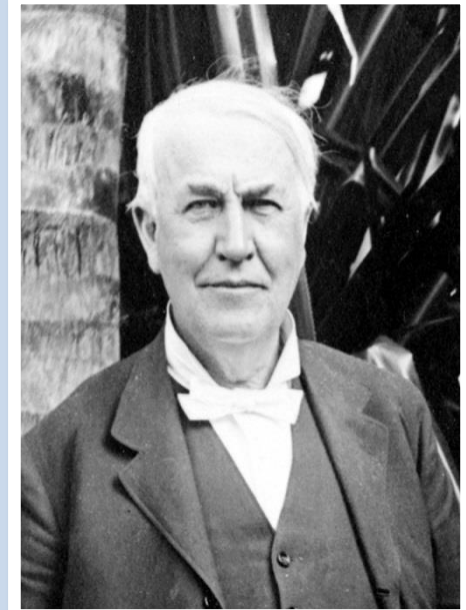
# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



### Other key inventions

- A battery for a car by Henry Ford.
- Kinetograph- an early version of a movie camera. This influenced others to develop better versions.
- Carbon transmitter- this improved the sound heard down a telephone line.





# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



LO: To assess the impact of a historical figure

### Task 1

Draw a picture of one of Thomas Edison's famous inventions, and around it note key facts about him and some of his key inventions.

# Year 4 History

## History of electricity



LO: To assess the impact of a historical figure

### Task 2

Write a paragraph considering the impact Thomas Edison had on the world. Consider the following questions:

Why is he so famous?

How do his inventions still impact our lives today?

What would life be like without light bulbs, movie camera's etc.?