Thomas Edison was an American inventor. Before he died he gave us the phonograph, improved the light bulb, motion pictures, and other bright inventions. He created the first research laboratory. He was the last of seven children of Samuel and Nancy Edison. He built his first lab at the age of 10 and he was deaf, but he liked it that way. He attended school for a few weeks but teachers considered him to be a poor student, so his mother homeschooled him. But in fact, he was very bright. He even attained a job at the age of twelve on a railroad.