

A portrait of Thomas Edison, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit and a red tie. He is seated in a wooden chair, leaning forward slightly, with his right hand resting on the handle of a large, silver, cylindrical phonograph. The phonograph is placed on a table covered with a dark red, fringed cloth. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Today in History

February 19, 1878

▲ **Thomas Edison patented the phonograph, in which a large horn transmitted vibrations to a needle that scribed a recording on to a cylinder rotated by hand**

1977: Deep-ocean researchers found worms around geothermal vents that relied on bacteria-oxidising hydrogen sulphide for energy rather than sunlight

2004: **Jeffrey Skilling, former president and CEO of the Enron corporation, was indicted for fraud**

2009: The death toll from Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic exceeded 3,700

2017: **The private company SpaceX landed a first stage rocket back on Earth for the first time**