* Born Aug. 31, 1874 in Williamsburg, MA
* His parents’ names were Edward Robert and Abbie Ladd Thorndike
* His father started out as a lawyer, but then became a Methodist preacher by the time Edward Lee was born.
* He was the second born out of 4 children
* Interesting fact: His brother’s name was Ashley! (Yes! It’s unisex!)
* He, along with all of his siblings, were educators! Ashley and Lynn (his brothers) taught at Columbia University (English and History respectfully), and Mildred, his sister, was a high school teacher.
* He studied English at Wesleyan (1985) before attending Harvard to study English and French, where he met and was taught by William James.
* He changed his major to Psychology his second year at Harvard.
* He received a bachelor’s (A.B.) degree from Wesleyan and Harvard universities, as well as a Masters (A.M.) from Harvard.
* He went to Columbia to study under Cattell where most of his experiments were done.
* He worked at Western Reserve University after receiving his Doctorate in 1898, where he taught for a year.
* He was invited back to Columbia by Cattell to teach.
* He went from a professor in 1899 to the becoming the chair of the Educational Research in 1022
* His work on animal behavior and the learning process caused him to create the theory of Connectionism, also known as The Law of Effect, where he studied behavior based on trial and error.
* His work is considered the first study of animal learning
* Created “puzzle boxes” for cats where they had to figure out how to get out by using levers
* Wrote many books including *Educational Psychology* in 1903, which caused him to be credited for introducing modern educational psychology to education
* He published over 500 books, mostly about his experiments.
* After writing his book *Animal Intelligences* (also his doctoral thesis), he went into child development.
* Worked with John Dewey on progressive education
* He served in WWI as “an active and indefatigable member of the committee which devised and arranged for the administration and evaluation of the Army Alpha and army Beta tests” (Goodenough, 1950)
* Of his 4 children, 3 were educators teaching at Vasser College (his daughter Elizabeth), Queens College (son Edward), and Teacher’s College, Columbia
* One of his sons, Alan, became a research physicist.
* Died Aug. 9, 1949

# Works Cited

Britannica, T. E. (2019, June 6). *Edward L. Thorndike*. Retrieved from Encyclopaedia Britannica, inc: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-L-Thorndike

Goodenough, F. L. (1950, April). Edward Lee Thorndike: 1874-1949. *The American Journal of Psychology, Vol. 63, No. 2*, 291-301.

Jones S.J., R. D. (2012). Thorndike, Edward L. (1874–1949). *Seel N.M. (eds) Encyclopedia of the Sciences of Learning. Springer, Boston, MA*.

Mcleod, S. (2018, January 14). *Edward Thorndike: The Law of Effect*. Retrieved from SimplyPsychology: https://www.simplypsychology.org/edward-thorndike.html

S.N. Mukerji, D. G. (2019, June 26). *Education inthe 20th Century*. Retrieved from Encyclopaedia Britannica, inc: https://www.britannica.com/topic/education/Education-in-the-20th-century