

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL Reading Comprehension

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 3, 1847. When he was only eleven years old, he invented a machine that could clean wheat. Graham studied anatomy and physiology at the University of London but moved with his family to Quebec, Canada, in 1870.

Bell soon moved to Boston, Massachusetts. In 1871, he began working with deaf people and published the system of Visible Speech that was developed by his father. Visible Speech illustrated how the tongue, lips, and throat are used to produce vocal sounds. In 1872, Bell founded a school for the deaf, which soon became part of Boston University.

Alexander Graham Bell is best known for his invention of the telephone. While trying to discover the secret of transmitting multiple messages on a single wire, Bell heard the sound of a plucked string along some of the electrical wire. One of Bell's assistants, Thomas A. Watson, was trying to reactivate a telephone transmitter. After hearing the sound, Bell believed he could send the sound of a human voice over the wire. After receiving a patent on March 7, 1876, for transmitting sound along a single wire, he successfully transmitted human speech on March 10. Bell's telephone patent was one of the most valuable patents ever issued. He started the Bell Telephone Company in 1877.

Bell went on to invent a precursor to the modern-day air conditioner and a device called a "photophone" that enabled sound to be transmitted on a beam of light. Today's fiber optic and laser communication systems are based on Bell's photophone research. In 1898, Alexander Graham Bell and his son-in-law took over the National Geographic Society and built it into one of the most recognized magazines in the world. Bell also helped found Science Magazine, one of the most respected research journals in the world.

Alexander Graham Bell died August 2, 1922. On the day of his burial, in honor of Bell, all telephone services in the United States were stopped for one minute.

1.) Where was Alexander Graham Bell born?

- a.) England
- b.) Quebec
- c.) Scotland
- d.) Boston

2.) What did Alexander Graham Bell do in 1872?

- a.) Invent a machine for cleaning wheat
- b.) Start a school for deaf people
- c.) Invent the telephone
- d.) Study at the University of London

3.) What happened FIRST?

- a.) Bell invented the telephone.
- b.) Bell moved to Canada.
- c.) Bell published the Visible Speech system.
- d.) Bell moved to Massachusetts.

4.) What was Thomas A. Watson doing when Alexander Graham Bell heard the sound of a plucked string over electric wire?

- a.) Transmitting multiple messages over a single wire
- b.) Transmitting the human voice over a single wire
- c.) Starting the Bell Telephone Company
- d.) Reactivating a telephone transmitter

5.) What is the best definition for "transmit" in this passage?

- a.) to block by stopping
- b.) to send
- c.) to make larger
- d.) to disturb

6.) Which of the following was Alexander Graham Bell NOT involved with?

- a.) National Geographic Magazine
- b.) Science Magazine
- c.) photophone
- d.) teaching blind people

7.) What is a photophone?

- a.) A device that can transmit a message on a sound wave.
- b.) A device that can transmit a message on a wire.
- c.) A device that can transmit a message on a beam of light.
- d.) A device that can transmit a message on a telephone.

8.) The photophone was most important to what industry?

- a.) fiber optics and laser communication systems
- b.) telephone
- c.) air conditioning
- d.) publishing

9.) On the day of his funeral, American telephone services were disabled for how many minutes?
