



Name _____

Date _____

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Did you answer the phone today? You have Alexander Bell to thank for that. Bell was the son of a speech teacher. He had helped his father through the years and learned many things. He was taught how people learned to speak and hear. He used this knowledge to help deaf people learn to speak.

Bell was born in Scotland in 1847. The Bell family eventually moved to Canada. Bell moved on to Boston, where he continued his work with deaf people. He was trying to invent a machine that would help deaf people speak. His first success was when he sent a musical note over an electrical wire.

Bell kept working and experimenting. He invented a machine that was able to send and receive human speech. One day he spilled acid on his clothes. He decided to use his machine to send a “help” message to his friend. His friend got the message through the machine! The telephone had been invented. Some people thought that others had invented the telephone. The Supreme Court finally ruled in Bell’s favor. Bell eventually got a patent for his invention.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Alexander Graham Bell would probably be most interested in which of the following inventions?
 - a. microwave
 - b. cell phone
 - c. Braille
 - d. car
2. According to the passage, how did Bell finally receive the patent for his invention?
 - a. He waited the official 10 years for it to happen.
 - b. He went to the patent office to get the official rights.
 - c. The Supreme Court ruled in Bell’s favor.
 - d. He spilled acid on his clothes and called his friend for help.
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Through hard work and dedication, Bell was able to accomplish great things.
 - b. how the telephone was invented
 - c. how Bell’s background proved helpful
 - d. how Bell won the patent for the telephone
4. What was the original purpose of the machine Bell invented?
 - a. He was trying to invent the microphone.
 - b. He was trying to invent the telephone.
 - c. He was trying to invent a machine that would help deaf people speak.