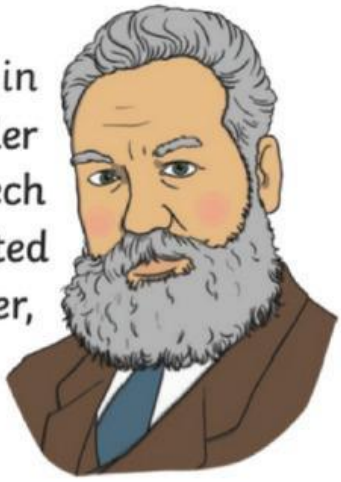
Alexander Graham Bell

Childhood



Alexander Bell was born in March 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Bell's father, Alexander Melville Bell, was a scientist who studied speech sounds. His mother was Eliza Grace Bell, a talented pianist. Bell was homeschooled by his mother, who tried to give him a sense of curiosity about the world around him.

Telephone Experiments

In the early 1870s, Bell was living and teaching in Boston, America. He spent years trying to invent a way to make the human voice move through electrical wires.

In 1874, he began working with Thomas Watson, a skilled electrician. Together, they continued experimenting with ways to transmit speech.

On 10th March 1876, Alexander and Thomas were working in separate rooms. Alexander made the first ever telephone call, saying: "Mr Watson, come here. I want to see you!" After this, Alexander's life would never be the same again!

Success!

Bell began to show his telephone to the public. The Bell Telephone Company was set up in 1877. By 1886, over 150,000 people in the USA owned telephones.

Did You Know...?

Other scientists tried to say that they had the idea for the telephone first! None were able to prove it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Work with Deaf People

Alexander Graham Bell's mother was deaf and his father worked with deaf people. Bell's father invented a language called Visible Speech to show how different speech sounds are made.

Bell helped to show how Visible Speech could help deaf people learn and develop their speech. He helped his father teach it to deaf people.

How He Is Remembered

As the telephone became more and more important, Alexander Graham Bell became more and more famous. He received many awards for his invention. Bell died in 1922, aged 75. After his funeral, every telephone on the continent of North America was silenced for one minute.

Did You Know...?

The measures of sound that are still used today, the **bel** and the **decibel**, are named after him.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Draw lines to match the descriptions of people in Alexander Bell's life.

Alexander's mother	scientist
Thomas Watson	electrician
Alexander's father	pianist

2. Number the events below to show the order they happened in Alexander Bell's life.

- [ ] Alexander began working with Thomas Watson.
- [ ] Alexander made the first ever telephone call.
- [ ] Alexander set up the Bell Telephone Company.
- [ ] Alexander lived and taught in Boston.

3. Fill in the missing words.
The first ever telephone call was made to _____ _____.

4. Who also tried to say that they had invented the telephone?

_____

5. Find and copy one word that means someone is very well-known.

_____

6. Why do you think telephones were silenced for one minute after Alexander Bell's funeral? Give a reason for your answer.

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS