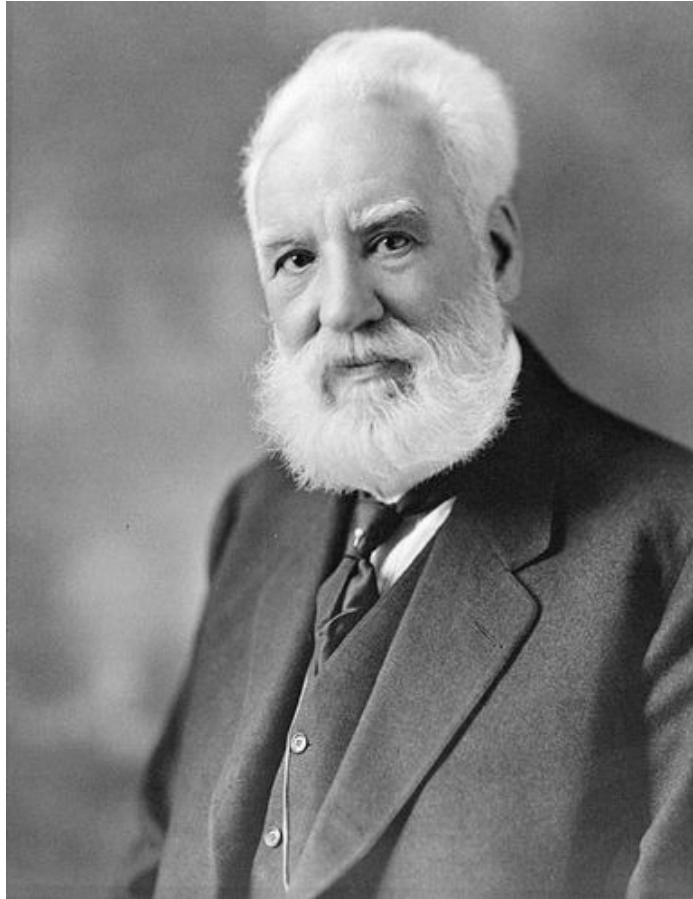


Famous Inventors - Alexander Graham Bell: You Rang?

by ReadWorks



Have you heard of Alexander Graham Bell? He invented something that you probably use every day. He invented the telephone.

Bell became interested in communication because his mother was deaf. His parents communicated with each other through sign language. He wanted to help everyone communicate better. Bell studied speech patterns and discovered that they could be sent in electric waves. In 1876, he and his partner Thomas Watson invented the telephone. The first words ever spoken over a telephone were "Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you." Watson heard Bell clearly. Their invention worked.

It took many years before the telephone was commonly used. By the 1930s many homes had telephones.

If it were not for the invention of the telephone, we might be writing letters instead of making phone calls.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Bell's interest in communication began because
 - A. he grew up on a farm far away from other people.
 - B. he wanted to speak to his partner Watson at any time.
 - C. his mother was deaf and his parents used sign language.
 - D. he knew he could make a lot of money from telephones.

2. Why does the author describe the background of Bell's interest in communication?
 - A. to give biographical information that affected his career as an inventor
 - B. to show that the telephone was almost never invented
 - C. to show why Bell needed help from Watson with the invention
 - D. to tell the story of how Bell discovered electric waves

3. Why does the author most likely include the information that Bell discovered that speech patterns could be sent in electric waves?
 - A. to show that Bell studied many scientific issues besides communication
 - B. to say that Bell was actually not the first person to invent the telephone
 - C. because that information helped Bell and Watson invent the telephone
 - D. because Bell only had a small part in the invention, and Watson did the rest

4. Read the following sentences: "It took many years before the telephone was commonly used. By the 1930s many homes had telephones."

The word **commonly** means

- A. in a polite manner
- B. no longer, not anymore
- C. for business purposes
- D. often, by many people

5. What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. to explain why telephones were not very popular for years after their invention
- B. to describe the invention of the telephone and the man who invented it
- C. to tell the story of the childhood of Alexander Graham Bell
- D. to show how many important inventions are only invented by accident

6. What were the first words ever spoken on a phone?

7. Explain why the fact that Bell's mother was deaf had an impact on his career as an inventor.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Bell became interested in communication _____ his mother was deaf.

- A. before
- B. so
- C. even though
- D. because