

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell lived from the years 1847-1922. He is best remembered for inventing the telephone. Before he invented the telephone, he taught speech to deaf students and was a professor at Boston University. Bell's interest in speech led him to experiment with transmitting speech electronically. He thought that sound-wave vibrations could be converted into electric currents at one end of a wire. Then, the current could be reconverted into identical sound waves on the receiving end of the wire. While working on this experiment, he heard the sound of a plucked reed coming through the end of the line where he was working. The sound had originated from another room where his assistant, Watson, was working. The two men had discovered a way to transmit sounds. The transmitting of words would come later with more experimenting.

On March 7, 1876, the U.S. Patent Office issued a patent to Bell for his idea of the telephone. Three days later, while Bell and Watson were working on the invention, Watson heard the words, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you!" These words were coming through the receiving apparatus invented by Bell. The work of Bell and Watson paved the way for telephone service in the United States. On July 9, 1877, the first telephone company, Bell Telephone Company, was opened for business.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)
A. Sound waves can be converted into electric currents.
B. The telephone is the greatest invention of all time.
C. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
2. What did Bell do to earn a living before experimenting with transmitting speech?

3. What was the first thing Bell and Watson discovered while experimenting with transmitting speech?

4. Did Bell receive the patent before or after successfully inventing the telephone?

5. What were the first words heard through Bell's telephone?
