

Alexander Graham Bell

Childhood

Alexander Bell was born in March 1847 in Scotland. Bell's father was a scientist who studied speech sounds. His mother played the piano and was deaf. As a child, he was very curious about the world around him and how sounds were made.



The Telephone

In the early 1870s, Bell was living in America and teaching deaf people. He spent years trying to invent a way to send the human voice over electrical wires.

In 1874, he began working with electrician, Thomas Watson. They worked together to experiment with ways to transmit speech.

On 10th March 1876, Alexander and Thomas were working in different rooms. Alexander made the first ever telephone call to Thomas.

The Bell Telephone Company was set up in 1877 and by 1886 over 150,000 people in America owned telephones!

How He Is Remembered

Bell died in 1922, aged 75. After his funeral, every telephone in America was turned off as a mark of respect.

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

Did You Know...?

In the first ever phone call, Bell said,
"Mr Watson, come here. I want to see you!"

Questions

1. Where was Alexander Bell born? Tick one.

- ☐ England
☐ Scotland
☐ Wales

2. Draw lines to match these people to what they did.

Alexander's mother

scientist

Thomas Watson

electrician

Alexander's father

pianist

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

- ☐ Alexander set up the Bell Telephone Company.
☐ Alexander began working with Thomas Watson.
☐ Alexander made the first ever telephone call.

4. Find and copy one word that shows what Alexander was like as a child.

5. What did Alexander Bell say in the first ever phone call?
