

From Bell to Cell

by Maddie Clark

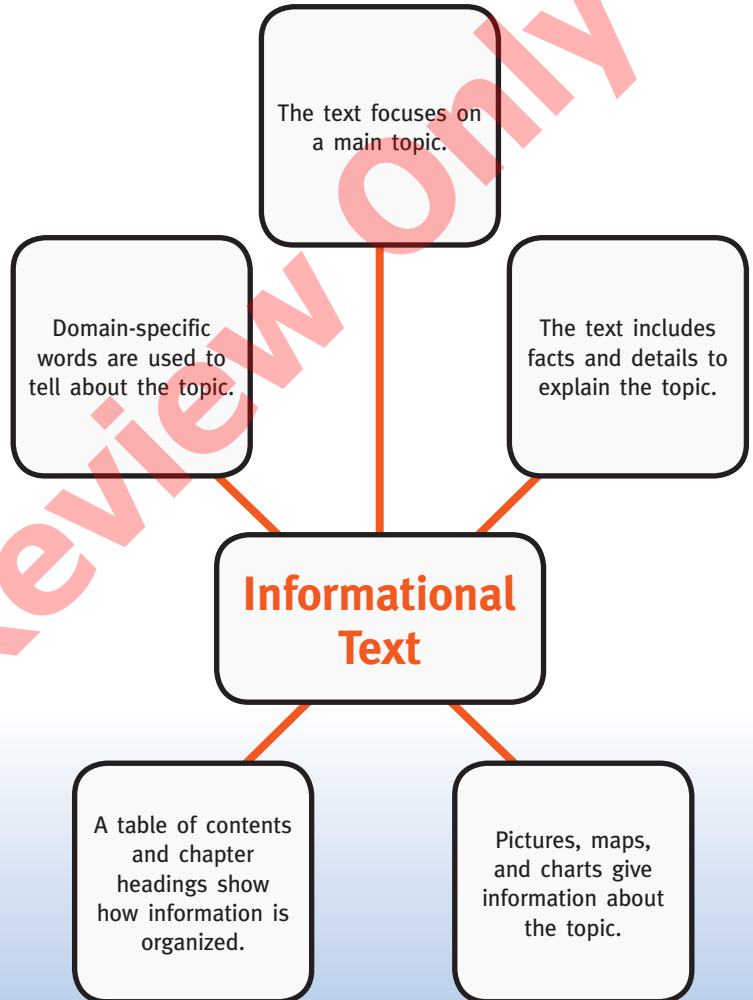


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Alexander Graham Bell's Invention

Long ago, there were no telephones. To keep in touch, people got together or wrote letters.

About 150 years ago, that changed. An inventor named Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.



◀ Alexander Graham Bell was born in the country of Scotland.

Bell was also a teacher. He worked with deaf children. He was interested in speech and hearing. He did many experiments with sound and the human voice.



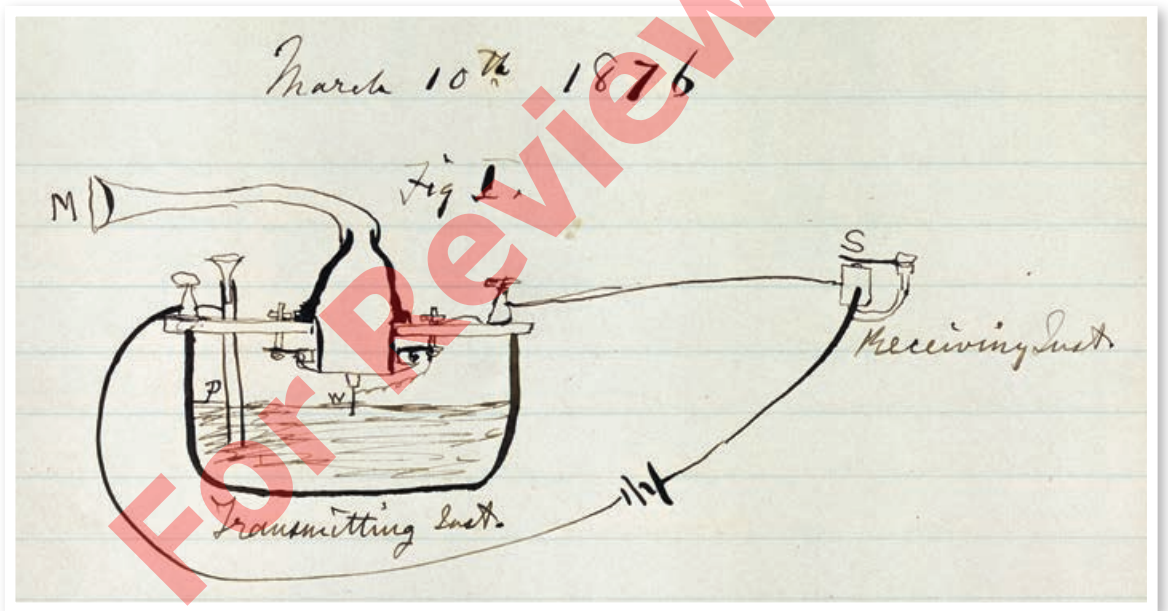
◀ Bell works with one of his students.

In the 1800s, the telegraph was the fastest way to communicate over long distances. It used electricity to send signals over wires. Only one message at a time could be sent over telegraph wires.

- ▼ The telegraph made it possible to send long-distance messages.



Bell wanted to find a way to send voices over wires, too. He also wanted to send more than one message at the same time.



- ▲ This is an early drawing of Bell's idea for the telephone.

Bell experimented with sound and wires. One day, he heard the sound of a spring being pulled. The sound traveled over a long wire. This proved that sound could travel over wires.

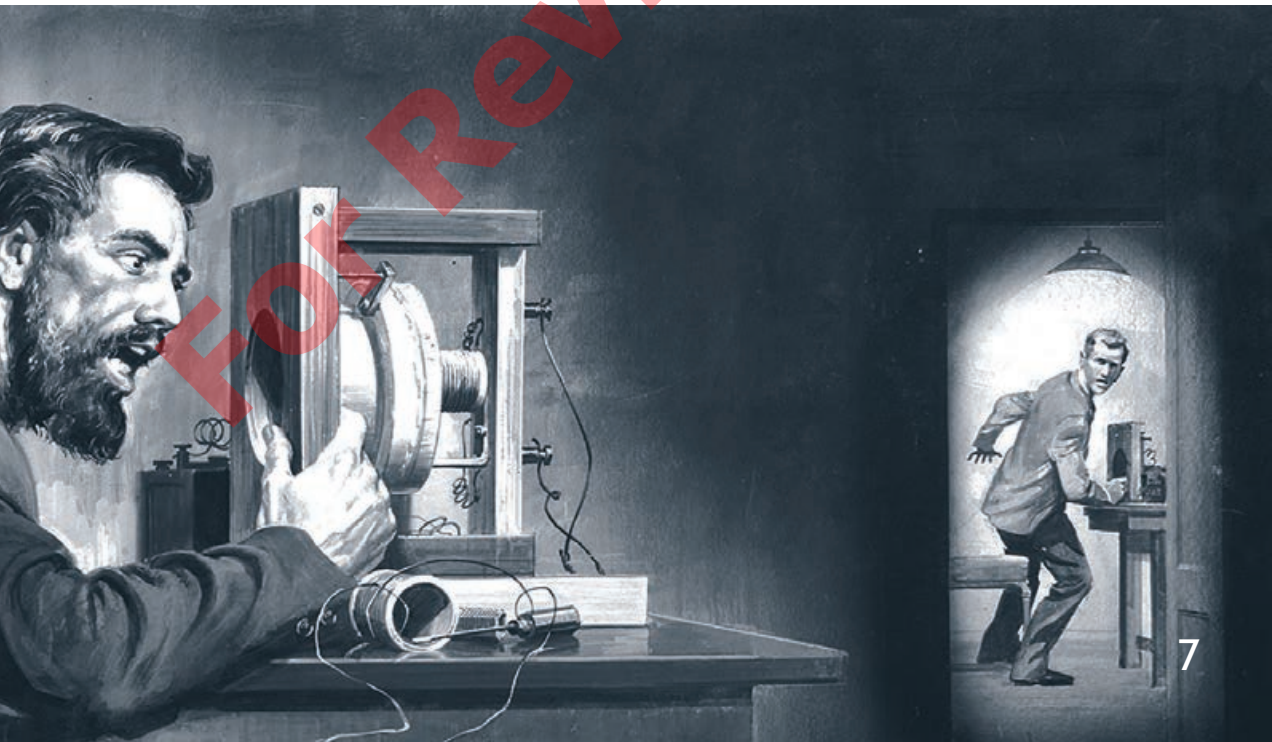
This meant that Bell could try sending the sound of the human voice over wires. He worked with his helper, Thomas Watson, to make this happen.



◀ Bell worked with Thomas Watson.

On March 10, 1876, Bell was able to send the sound of his voice over wires. Watson heard Bell. He was able to answer. This was the very first telephone call.

▼ Bell called Watson and said, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.”

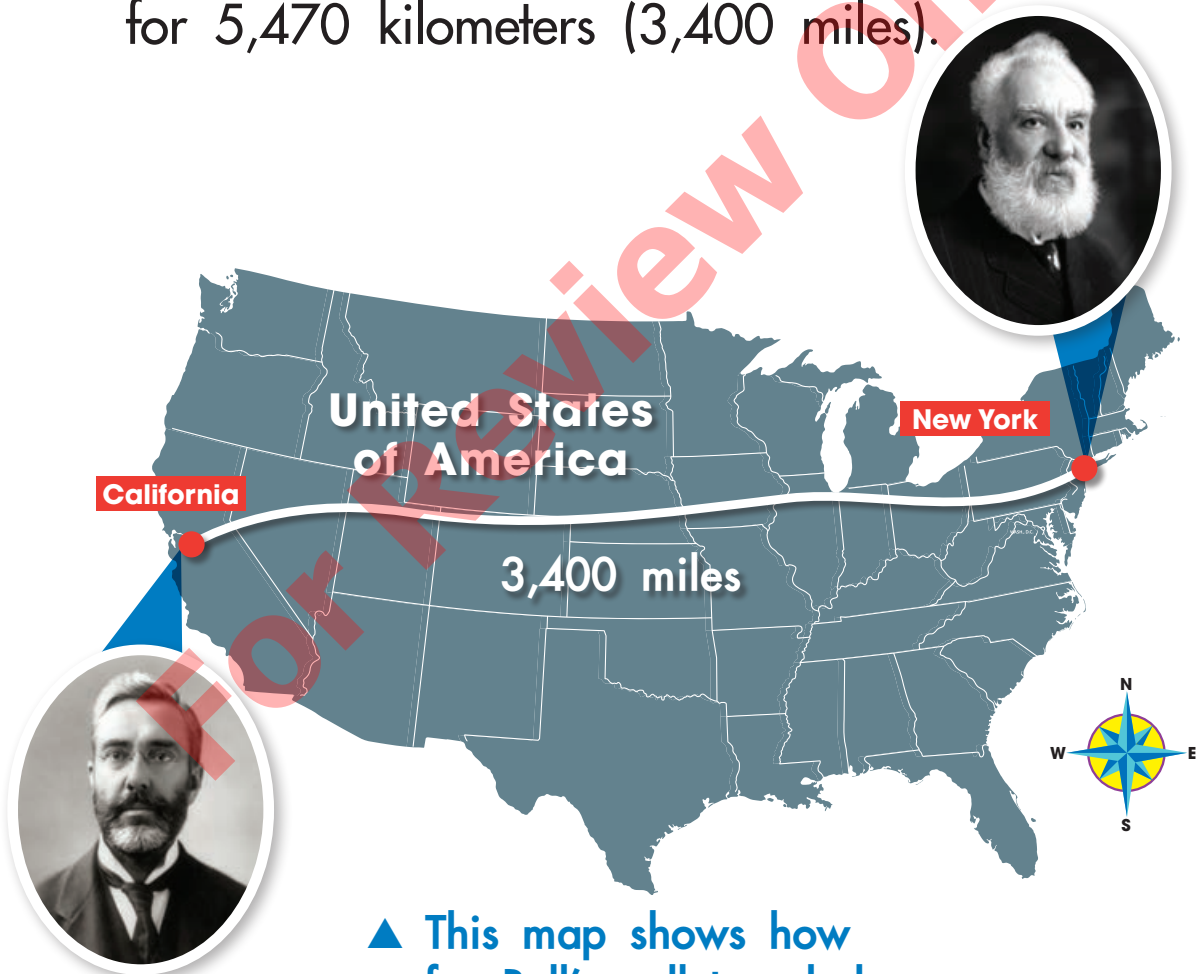


Bell shared his invention with others.
Soon, people wanted telephones for
themselves.

- ▼ Bell showed his invention
to groups of people.



In 1915, Bell made the first call that could be heard across the country. He was in New York. Watson was in California. Bell's voice traveled over wires for 5,470 kilometers (3,400 miles).



▲ This map shows how far Bell's call traveled.