Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell was born in 1847. He lived in Scotland. He was called Aleck.

Aleck made his first invention. He was just 11! An invention (in-VEN-shuhn) is something new. He and his friend had a job. They were to take the husks off grains of wheat. It was hard to do!

So they got a barrel. They lined it with brushes. They put in the wheat. They turned a paddle inside. The husks came right off!

Sounds and Silence

Aleck and his brother made a talking skull. It made a sound like “Mama!” This made Aleck think. How did sound move? He had a good reason to ask. His mom was going deaf.

Aleck became a teacher. He taught at the Boston School for the Deaf. Aleck taught deaf students. He taught some of them to speak. He married a deaf woman.
Aleck’s Telephone

Aleck thought about the telegraph. It could send messages. People tapped words. They used Morse code. The taps became electric pulses. They moved on wires. Aleck wanted to change this. He wanted to send speech, not taps.

Aleck hired Thomas Watson. They worked in two rooms. A wire joined them. They tried to speak on the wire. They wanted to make the first telephone.

It was March 10, 1876. The men tested their phone. Thomas heard Aleck’s voice. It came from the other room! Aleck said, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.” Aleck started the Bell Telephone Company. Soon, many people had phones.

Aleck’s Other Inventions

Aleck invented many more things. One was a boat. One was a kite. A man could ride it! But he is famous for the phone. He died in 1922.

What Did You Learn?

How did Alexander Graham Bell change life in America?
Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell was born in 1847. He grew up in Scotland. He was called Aleck.

Aleck made his first invention (in-VEN-shuhn) when he was 11. An invention is something new. He and a friend had a chore. They were to take the husks off grains of wheat. It was hard to do!

So they got a barrel. They lined it with brushes. They put in the wheat. They turned a paddle inside. The husks came right off!

Sounds and Silence

Aleck and his brother made a talking skull. It made a sound like, “Mama!” This made Aleck wonder. How did sound move? Aleck had a good reason to ask. His mother was going deaf.

Aleck became a teacher. He taught at the Boston School for the Deaf. Aleck taught deaf students. He taught some of them to speak. Later, he married a deaf woman.
Aleck’s Telephone

Aleck studied the telegraph. People used it to send messages. They tapped words in Morse code. The taps changed into electric pulses. They moved on wires. Aleck wanted to send speech through the wires.

Aleck hired Thomas Watson to help. The men worked in two rooms. A wire joined them. They tried to speak to each other on the wire. They wanted to make the first telephone.

It was March 10, 1876. Aleck and Thomas tested their phone. Thomas heard Aleck’s voice! Aleck said, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.” Aleck started the Bell Telephone Company. Soon, many people had a phone.

Aleck’s Other Inventions

Aleck invented more things. He made a new kind of boat. He made a kite. It could carry a person! But his most famous invention was the phone. He kept inventing until he died in 1922.

What Did You Learn?

How did Alexander Graham Bell’s ideas change life in America?
Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell was born in 1847. He grew up in Scotland. His friends and family called him Aleck.

From an early age, Aleck was an inventor (in-VEN-ter). An inventor makes new things. When he was 11, he and a friend had a chore. They had to take the husks off grains of wheat. It was hard work!

So they found a barrel and lined it with brushes. They put in the wheat and spun a paddle inside. The husks came off easily!

**Sounds and Silence**

When he was 16, Aleck and his brother made a talking skull with a tin “throat.” It sounded as if the machine cried, “Mama!” This made Aleck wonder about sound. How did it travel? How did voices work? Aleck had a good reason to ask those questions. His mother was going deaf.

Aleck became a teacher. He taught at the Boston School for the Deaf. Aleck tutored deaf students. He was able to teach some of them to speak. Later, Aleck married a deaf woman named Mabel.
**Aleck’s Telephone**

Aleck was interested in the telegraph. People tapped messages in Morse code. The taps changed into electrical pulses. Then they moved on wires. Aleck wanted to send speech through wires.

Aleck hired Thomas Watson to help him. The men worked in different rooms. A wire joined them. They tried to speak to each other on the wire. They wanted to be the first to make a telephone.

On March 10, 1876, Aleck and Thomas tested their invention. Thomas heard Aleck’s voice from the other room! Aleck said, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.” Aleck started the Bell Telephone Company. Soon, many people had a telephone at home.

**Aleck’s Other Inventions**

Aleck invented more things. He invented the metal detector. Aleck invented a new kind of boat and a kite that could carry a person. But his most famous invention was the telephone. He kept inventing until he died in 1922.
Alexander Graham Bell

Alexander Graham Bell was born in 1847 in Scotland. His friends and family called him Aleck.

Even at an early age, Aleck was an inventor (in-VEN-ter). An inventor creates new things. When he was 11, he and a friend had a chore. They had to take the husks off grains of wheat. It was hard work!

So they found a barrel and lined it with brushes, put in the wheat, and spun a paddle inside. The husks came off easily!

Sounds and Silence

When he was 16, Aleck and his brother made a talking skull with a tin “throat.” It sounded as if the machine cried, “Mama!” This made Aleck wonder about sound. How did it travel, and how did voices work? Aleck had a good reason to ask those questions because his mother was going deaf.

Aleck became a teacher at the Boston School for the Deaf. Aleck tutored deaf students and was able to teach some of them to speak. Aleck married a deaf woman he had tutored named Mabel.
Aleck’s Telephone

Aleck was interested in the telegraph. With it, people tapped messages in Morse code. The taps changed into electrical pulses and moved on wires across the nation. Aleck wanted to change the telegraph so that he could send speech through wires. He wanted a person to speak into it and a person far away to hear what was said.

Aleck hired Thomas Watson to help him. The men worked in different rooms with a wire run between them. They tried over and over to speak to each other on the wire.

On March 10, 1876, Aleck and Thomas tested their invention. Thomas heard Aleck say from the other room, “Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you.” Aleck started the Bell Telephone Company. Soon, many people had a telephone at home.

Aleck’s Other Inventions

Aleck invented more things. Aleck invented a new kind of boat, a metal detector, and a kite that could carry a person. But his most famous invention was the telephone. He kept inventing until he died in 1922.

What Did You Learn?
How did Alexander Bell’s inventions improve life in America?