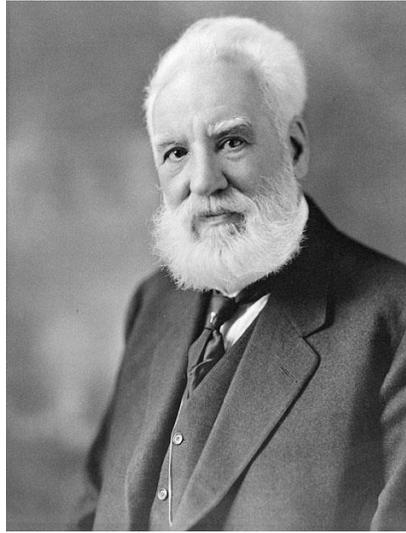
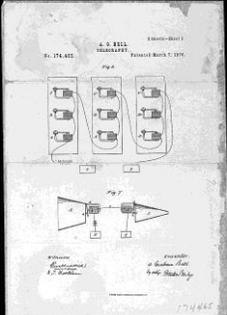


SCIENTIST & INVENTOR: ALEXANDER BELL



KEY FACTS

Occupation	Bell was a Scottish-born American scientist and inventor, most famous for his pioneering work on the development of the telephone.
Born	Born on March 3rd 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland
Married	Married Mabel Gardiner Hubbard in 1877
Died	Alexander Bell died on August 22nd 1922 at his home in Nova Scotia

EARLY LIFE	Alexander became interested in how sound works due to his mother becoming profoundly deaf by the time he was 10 years old. He would play the piano for her and he noticed the strings inside the piano vibrating when they were hit by the little hammer. He realised that the vibration was making the sound.
ADULT LIFE	In 1870, Bell emigrated with his family to Canada, and the following year he moved to the United States to teach. There, he pioneered a system called visible speech, developed by his father, to teach deaf-mute children. This involved helping them learn how to move their throat, tongue and lips to produce the vibrations to make the sounds that go into speech. In 1872, Bell founded a school in Boston to train teachers of the deaf. The school subsequently became part of Boston University, where Bell was appointed professor of vocal physiology in 1873. He became a U.S. citizen in 1882.
FAMILY	Married Mabel Gardiner Hubbard in 1877. They had 4 children; Elsie, Marian, Edward and Robert.
MAIN ACHIEVEMENT 	Bell had long been fascinated by the idea of transmitting speech and when he was asked to improve the telegraph machine he was determined to find a way to transmit sound. By 1875, with the help of his assistant Thomas Watson, he had come up with a simple receiver that could turn electricity into sound. Bell was granted a patent for the telephone on 7th March 1876 and it developed quickly. Within a year, the first telephone exchange was built in Connecticut and the Bell Telephone Company was created in 1877, with Bell the owner of a third of the shares, quickly making him a wealthy man.
LATER LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 1880, Bell was awarded the French Volta Prize for his invention and with the money, founded the Volta Laboratory in Washington, where he continued experiments in communication, in medical research and in techniques for teaching speech to the deaf. ● In 1885, he acquired land in Nova Scotia and established a summer home there where he continued his experiments, particularly in the field of aviation. ● In 1888, Bell was one of the founding members of the National Geographic Society, and served as its president from 1896 to 1904, also helping to establish its journal.

GLOSSARY

- **Deaf Mute** - a person who is unable to hear or speak.
- **Patent** - A government issued document which means nobody else can use your invention without your permission for a set period of time
- **Aviation** - relating to planes and air travel

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