Dive into the history of Braille!

*Share the history of Braille with children at your Sunday school.*

Braille is a form of writing for people who are blind. Letters in Braille are written by making patterns of bumpy dots that you can feel with your fingertips when you run your hand over a page. It was invented by Louis Braille, who was born in France in 1809. He became blind at the age of three. His dad worked with leather, making shoes, belts and other items.

An awl looks very similar to a Braille stylus, which is used for poking holes in paper to write Braille.

When Louis was nearly a teenager, he was inspired by something called ‘night writing’. This was a language made of 12 bumpy dots that soldiers used to read in the dark. That way, they didn’t have to light a lamp and give away their hiding place. Night writing was difficult to read with one touch of the fingertip because of how many dots there were. Louis began working on his own language, inspired by the patterns of raised dots. Eventually, after many years, Louis developed a system based on six dots which was easier to read with one finger. The method was called Braille, after Louis. It was invented in 1824.
Braille has allowed so many people over the many decades to read and write since it was created. Later, Braille typewriters were invented, which allowed people who are blind to write more quickly, and over 40 years ago, Braille computer displays first came into use.

BMS World Mission supports schools for children who are blind in Kinshasa, the capital of D R Congo, which is in Africa and in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, which is in Asia. There, children and young people are taught to read Braille and have been given educational materials such as Braille books and typewriters. How amazing to think that this all started with a boy called Louis Braille, who had a dream!

For the grown-ups!
BMS World Mission’s work with people with disabilities

Thanks to your giving, people around the world are experiencing God’s love for them. Children who are blind have access to education in places as varied as D R Congo and Bangladesh. You’ve given people with disabilities a new lease of life in Chad, where you support BMS partner Guinebor II hospital. In Thailand, you’ve given children with disabilities the chance to go to school. You’ve also rehabilitated people with serious injuries after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, and you’ve even provided diagnoses and guidance for parents of children with Down Syndrome in Uganda.

Thank you for your love and support for BMS work! You make all this possible. Please continue to give and help transform lives. Head to: www.bmsworldmission.org/give
When was Braille invented?  
a) 1975  
b) 1824  
c) 2000  

Who was Braille invented by?  
a) Louis Braille’s dad  
b) Louis Braille  
c) Charlie Braille  

What is an awl?  
a) A bird  
b) A pointy tool to poke holes in paper  
c) A pointy tool to poke holes in leather  

When did computers start to display Braille?  
a) Over 100 years ago  
b) Over 40 years ago  
c) About 5 years ago  

Where does BMS work with children who are blind?  
a) Bangladesh  
b) D R Congo  
c) D R Congo and Bangladesh  

How did you do?  
Total =
Learn to write Braille!

Learn the Braille basics. Here is the Braille alphabet:

```plaintext
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>e</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>g</th>
<th>h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>j</td>
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<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
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<td>r</td>
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<td>u</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Look carefully at the key. Now, do you think you can write the Braille alphabet?
Colour in the dots to write the Braille alphabet. Use the key to help you.

Now do you think you’ll be able to write your name?
Colour in the dots to write your name. Use the key to help you.

Congratulations! You can write your name in Braille!