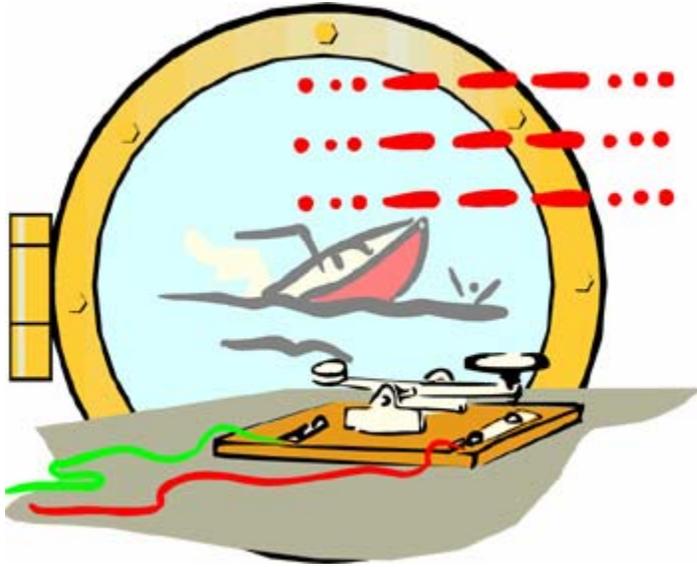


Samuel F. B. Morse

Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts on April 27, 1791. He was one of three brothers. At the age of seven his father, a clergyman, and his mother enrolled him in the prestigious Phillips Academy of Andover, Massachusetts.



Mr. Morse was a reasonable student but not of the highest capability. He was, however, quite good at the art of drawing. He wanted to go to art school very much, but his father would not approve it. Samuel finally graduated from Yale College at the age of 18. After one year his father allowed the young Morse to go to England to study art at the Royal Academy. In 1815 Morse returned to America to continue his painting. His

most famous paintings were of the Marquis de Lafayette. He became the first president of the National Academy of Design in 1826. However, Samuel Morse returned to Europe in 1829.

After three years in Europe, Samuel returned to America. On the voyage Samuel discussed the concepts of electromagnetism with a fellow traveler, Dr. Charles T. Jackson. From these talks Samuel Morse used his drawing skills to create sketches of a telegraph sending unit and a telegraph receiver which are connected by a wire. Most importantly he developed a code that consisted of dots and dashes to represent letters of the alphabet to use with his device. It took Morse four years to build the components. During this time Morse studied the work of Joseph Henry, a physicist.

In 1837, Morse created a partnership with Mr. Alfred Vail and Dr. Leonard Gale. From this partnership came the application for a patent for the telegraph, a communication system. By 1843 Congress approved funds to build a test telegraph line between the nation's capital and Baltimore, Maryland. It took a year to construct the system. On the 24th of May in the year 1844 Samuel Finley Breese Morse sent his famous coded message: "What hath God wrought?" – a quotation from the bible.

As a result of this breakthrough in electricity, Morse became a very wealthy man. Although he lived until 1872 he was troubled by the many people who began to doubt whether he actually created this invention by himself or if others helped him and were not credited for their work. Meanwhile telegraph signals could be sent across the country.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Samuel F. B. Morse

Who

What

When



Where

Why

How

Name: _____

Date: _____

Samuel F. B. Morse

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Samuel Morse's accomplishments include
 - a. Graduating from Yale College
 - b. Studying art at the Royal Academy in London
 - c. Being the first president of the National Academy of Design
 - d. All of the above

2. Morse's telegraph
 - a. Was a communication system for sending and receiving messages
 - b. Was based on electromagnetism
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

3. The telegraph needs
 - a. A sending unit
 - b. A receiving unit
 - c. Both a sending unit and a receiving unit
 - d. A sending unit, a receiving unit and a connecting wire

4. The first telegraph line connected what two cities?
 - a. Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland
 - b. New York City and Baltimore, Maryland
 - c. Washington, D.C. and New York City
 - d. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

5. Along with the equipment what is the other essential part of Morse's invention?
 - a. Morse code
 - b. A system of dots and dashes for sending and receiving information
 - c. Both a. and b. above
 - d. None of the above

6. How old was Samuel Morse when he died?
 - a. 91
 - b. 81
 - c. 72
 - d. 43

Name: _____

Date: _____

Samuel F. B. Morse

Short Answer Questions

1. Why do you think that Samuel Morse's father objected to Samuel becoming an artist?
2. Explain the four things necessary for the telegraph to be successful.
3. Why do think that people may doubt that Samuel Morse should get credit for inventing the telegraph?
4. Use a dictionary to explain what Samuel Morse's message "What hath God wrought?" means. What emotion do you think this message represents?
5. Name two ways that Ford Motor Company honors its founder Henry Ford.
6. Name some other modern communication systems that that need a sending unit, a receiving unit and coded messages.

What needed to be constructed in order for telegraph signals to reach the new western states in the late 1800s?

Samuel F. B. Morse

Answer Key

Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. c.
3. d.
4. a.
5. c.
6. b.

Short Answer Questions

1. Individual response – but most people object to their children becoming an artist or performer because they probably won't make much money.
2. A sending unit, a receiving unit, a connecting wire and Morse code.
3. He worked with so many other people including Dr. Charles T. Jackson, Alfred Vail and Dr. Leonard Gale plus he studied the work of Joseph Henry.
4. What has God made? Individual response but probably amazement.
5. The famous Greenfield Village museum and the Henry Ford Foundation were created in his honor.
6. E-mail and the Internet, telephones, cell phones.
7. Needed telegraph wires to be strung across the country.