Name _____

Date _____

Braille

Braille is a form of communication that allows blind people to read, write, do math and even compose music. It is not a language, but a system that can be used by blind people to read or write most of the world's languages.

Braille was developed in the 1820s by Louis Braille of France who became blind after a childhood accident. While attending the National Institute for the Blind in Paris, he learned that French soldiers used a special code to send messages at night that could be read without a light. Raised dots and dashes formed a message on a piece a paper, which a soldier read by running a finger over them.

Louis Braille was just 11 years old, but he used this military code to create an alphabet system that people could read with their fingertips, It took him almost nine years, but his system is still used today.

In the Braille system, each letter of the alphabet is formed from a different pattern of up to six small raised dots. The system also includes symbols for numbers, punctuation marks and musical notes. To read Braille, people move their index finger from left to right along a series of symbols of each line of a page. This lets them put together letters to make words or to recognize shortened forms of whole words and things such as periods and commas.

Grade I Braille is the longer form of written Braille. Grade 2 used more short forms and contractions of words. Experienced readers can read Braille books as quickly as sighted readers can read regular books.

Braille can be written on paper, using either a sharp, pointed instrument called a stylus or a machine that looks like a typewriter but has only six keys. Today, computer software programs and portable electronic Braille note takers are also available.

Part A:

1. Braille is a form of communication.	True	False
2. Braille was developed in France.	True	False
3. Braille is a system of raised dots and dashes that can be written on paper.	True	False
4. Braille is read by rolling your pinky over it.	True	False
5. There is no punctuation in Braille.	True	False
6. There are two levels of Braille.	True	False
7. People can read books faster than reading the book in Braille.	True	False
8. The idea to create Braille came from the military.	True	False

Name _____ Date _____

Braille

Part B: Answer the questions below.

1. What is Braille?

_____

2. Who developed Braille?

_____

3. Where did the idea for Braille come from?

_____

4. How old was the developer of Braille when he developed it?

_____

5. How long did it take to develop Braille?

_____

6. What types of symbols does Braille include?

_____

7. How do you read Braille?

_____

8. How many levels of Braille are there?

_____

9. Where have you seen Braille used?

_____

Name _____ Date _____

Braille - Answers

Part A:

1. true	2. true	3. true	4. false
5. false	6. true	7. false	8. true

Part B:

1. Braille is a system of raised dots and dashes that is used to allow blind people to communicate.
2. Louis Braille developed Braille.
3. The idea for Braille came from a special code that was used in the military.
4. Louis Braille was 11 years old when he developed Braille.
5. It took Braille 9 years to develop Braille.
6. Braille includes numbers, punctuation marks and musical notes.
7. You read Braille by rubbing your index finger over it.
8. There are 2 levels of Braille.
9. Braille is used on elevators, traffic lights and on the telephone.