Name: _____

Reading Without Seeing

Did you know that blind people can read books? Even though they can't see, they do have a special system for reading that allows them to feel books and papers.

Close your eyes and feel a book. You probably can't feel the letters and words, can you? It would be impossible to read one of your books if you couldn't see. But what if the book had small dots that were bumps in the paper? You would be able to feel those. Now imagine the bumps are a code for letters.

Braille is the special alphabet that blind people use to read. Each letter is made of small dots that rise out of the paper in a special pattern. Blind people read braille by using their fingers to feel each letter.

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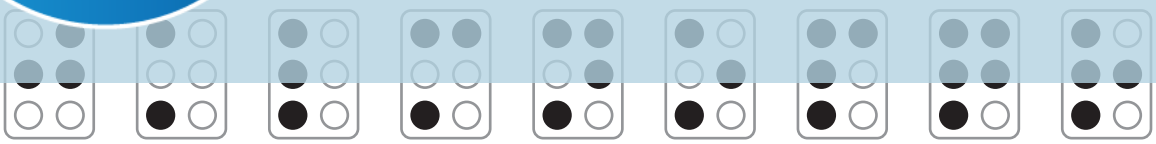

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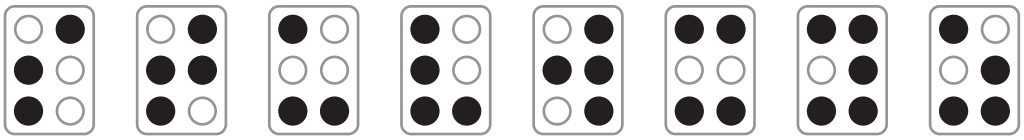

S T U V W X Y Z

The braille alphabet was invented nearly 200 years ago by a blind man named Louis Braille. He wanted to be able to read and write just like everyone else. Since he couldn't see, he invented an alphabet made of dots.

Today, braille letters are found in books, on elevator buttons, on medicine boxes, and there are even braille computer keyboards. There are braille Monopoly boards. Disneyland has braille maps. Most McDonald's restaurants even have braille menus available for blind customers.

Name: _____

Reading Without Seeing

Braille Words

Write some words in braille. Be sure you draw the dots carefully.
Be sure you leave spaces between each letter.

example:

L o u i s

Your first name:

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Your favorite color:

Your favorite food:

Any word of your choice:

Name: _____

Reading Without Seeing

Braille Alphabet

Write some words in braille. Be sure you draw the dots carefully.
Be sure you leave spaces between each letter.

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Name: _____

Reading Without Seeing

Braille Message

Decode the message. Write the English letters below the braille letters.

_____ _____

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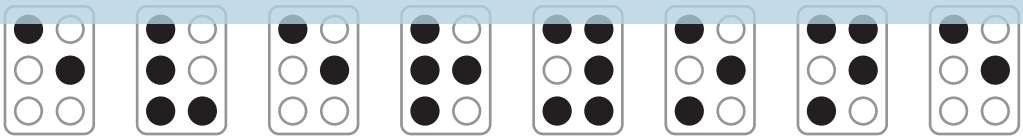

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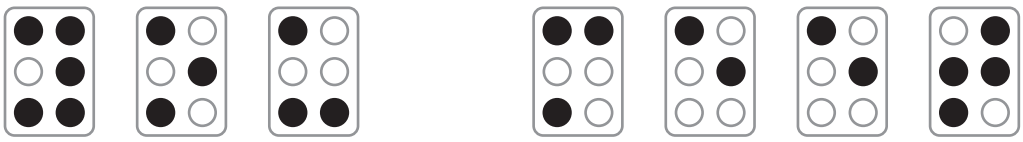

_____ _____

Reading Without Seeing

Teacher Notes

Two Ways To Make Raised-Letter Braille Words

a. Students can add the bumps to their braille words by putting tiny drops of white glue on the braille dots they've drawn.

b. You can also make the letters raised using this method:

Step 1: Write out the braille letters with a pencil on paper.

Step 2: Place a piece of cardboard on the desk. Flip the paper upside-down on the cardboard.

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the printable version of this worksheet.

Use the [illegible]y to discuss blindness and other disabilities. Ask students to brainstorm a list of other tools (besides braille writing) that could help a blind person. Traditional examples might include a white cane or seeing eye dog. Technology examples might include talking alarm clocks, audio books, and computers that can transcribe words.

Students may imagine braille letters to be black dots on a page. In fact, braille letters in books don't usually have any color to them. You may want to show students pictures from the internet of "real" braille books.

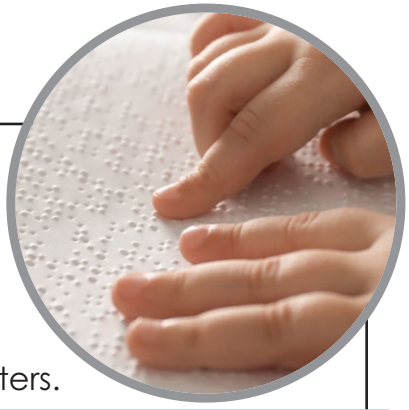
Free Braille Cards for Teachers

You can have a free braille embossed alphabet card mailed to you from National Braille Press.

Link: http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/braille/alphacard.html

You can also inexpensively purchase packs of thirty-five cards for less than $10. These are terrific teaching tools for allowing students to observe and experience "real" braille.

ANSWER KEY



Reading Without Seeing

Braille Message

Decode the message. Write the English letters below the braille letters.

Super Teacher

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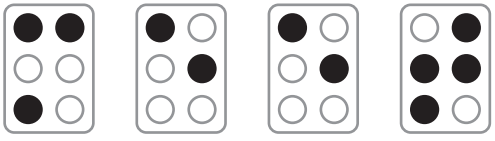
Y O U



M E E T