

Day 2

Grade 4

LEVEL 14, UNIT 1
INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Louis Braille

Louis Braille

KEY VOCABULARY

- **punched** (verb) To punch is to make a mark by pressing into a flat surface.
- **eager** (adjective) Eager means very interested and hopeful.
- **sensing** (verb) To sense is to feel.

Louis Braille was born in France in 1809. He became blind at the age of three because of an accident. At the village school, Louis learned by listening. He wished he could learn by reading.

When he was ten, Louis began living at a school in Paris. This school for blind children was the first of its kind. The students learned to read using books that had big raised letters for fingers to feel. The thick, heavy books had only a few words on a page. Reading each page took a long time.

Another way to read by touch had just been invented. Dots and dashes were punched into cardboard with a pointed tool. Fingertips could sense the bumps on the other side of the cardboard. The raised dots and dashes stood for sounds in words.

Louis and other students were **eager** to learn the new system. But soon they were disappointed. Many dots and dashes were needed for just one word, so reading was much too slow.

But Louis liked the idea of fingertips touching little bumps. He tried to think of ways to make the dot-and-dash system simpler. He began spending all his free time with a pointed tool and thick paper, punching little holes. He kept trying to make patterns that were easy to understand.

- ▶ How did Louis Braille learn before he could read?
- ▶ Find evidence to support a description of Louis Braille as persistent, or continuing to try to do something even though it is difficult.
- ▶ What is another example of an invention that solved a problem?
- ▶ If Louis Braille had given up, what might the world be like today?
- ▶ Do you think that Louis Braille's parents did the right thing when they sent him to live at school in Paris? Why or why not?
- ▶ Write about or discuss an invention that would solve a problem or improve an existing solution.

Name: _____

MAZE - A

Find your way from the top of the maze to the bottom.

Circle the expression if the **product is between 600 and 800**.

3×274	4×223	5×109	5×179	4×183
3×182	2×417	2×410	5×158	3×202
4×201	4×175	3×239	2×399	2×297
2×282	5×121	5×115	2×266	2×443
2×425	2×324	4×155	3×265	3×195
3×291	3×285	5×179	5×136	4×145