

Name: _____

Period: _____

Grade: _____



Morse-Vail Telegraph Key, http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1096762

1. Review the information in the article, “The US Civil War, the First Modern War: Telegraph” (Aeragon) at <http://www.aeragon.com/03/#telegraph>.
2. Read about the history of the telegraph in the “Morse Timeline” at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sfbmhtml/timeline02.html>. Using the timeline, fill in the important events that occurred on the following dates:

• 1840: _____

• 1844: _____

• 1861: _____

• 1861 (Oct 24): _____

• 1866 (Atlantic Cable): _____

• (1876: Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone)

For each of the following images, read the information on the bibliographic page (which comes up when you click on the link), and then click on one of the thumbnail pictures on the left-hand side of the screen to view in larger sizes.

3. Examine the image, "Morse Apparatus and Alphabet," at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006691784/>. Examine the upper portion of enlarged image depicting the telegraph receiver and transmitter. Can you describe how it works?

4. Examine the image, "Signal Telegraph Train at Fredericksburg," at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004660363/>. What do you observe?

5. Examine the image, "Signal Telegraph Machine Operator at Fredericksburg," at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004660282/>. What do you observe the soldier doing?

6. Examine the image, "Repairing the Telegraph line," at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006676182/>. What do think are the dangers of being a telegraph repairman?

7. Examine the image, "General Grant writing telegraph message," at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004682153>. After General Grant writes his message to President Lincoln, describe the process of how it will get to President Lincoln.

See also the thumbnail of "President Lincoln in the War Department Telegraph Office writing the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation" (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002715446/>). Please note that this thumbnail does not expand into a larger image.