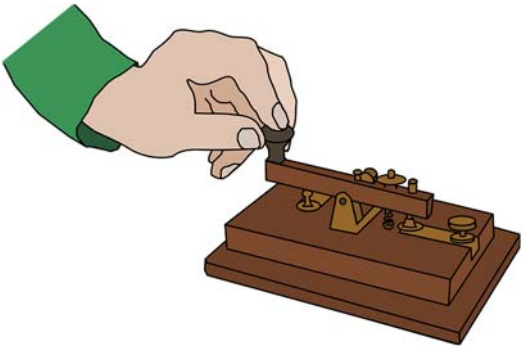


Name _____



The First Transmission

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Identify the **time** and **place** in which the story is set. Then, explain why the historical setting matters to the events, characters, or themes. Use complete sentences and support your answers with details from the text.

The Telegraph's Arrival

In 1844, Samuel Morse sent the first long-distance telegraph message from Washington, D.C. to Baltimore. News that once took days to arrive could now be delivered in minutes. In bustling cities, business leaders quickly realized how the telegraph could change trade and finance. Farmers in rural areas hoped it would bring faster updates on crop prices from distant markets. Meanwhile, politicians understood that this new technology could strengthen the federal government's ability to communicate across states. The invention spread rapidly, and telegraph wires soon stretched across much of the United States. For many Americans, it felt like the world had suddenly grown smaller.

1. What is the **time period** of this passage? Provide evidence from the text.
2. What is the **geographical setting** of this passage?
3. Why is the setting (both time and place) important to understanding the significance of the telegraph?
4. How might the story be different if it were set in the 21st century instead of the 19th century?