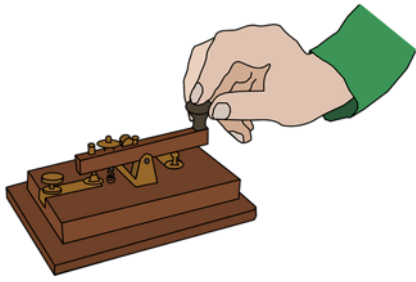


Name _____



Telegraph Timing Test

Directions: Read the passage below silently once to understand it. Before timing yourself, **mark natural phrase breaks** in the text using slashes (/) or a highlighter. Each phrase should sound natural when spoken aloud. After marking phrase breaks, read the passage aloud **for one minute** and mark where you stop. Count your **Words Per Minute (WPM)** and record it.

“The Telegraph’s First Message”

In 1844, a new invention changed the way people communicated across long distances. Samuel Morse, an American inventor, built the first telegraph system and created a special code of dots and dashes to represent letters and words. With this system, messages could be sent almost instantly through wires using electricity.

When the first message was sent from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore, Maryland, people gathered eagerly to witness history. The words transmitted were, “What hath God wrought?” The crowd gasped as the message appeared on the receiving paper strip. For the first time, a human voice could travel faster than a horse or train. The telegraph connected cities, businesses, and families like never before, sparking the dawn of instant communication around the world.

WPM after reading: _____

Reflection: How did marking phrase breaks help you read more smoothly?
