

Name _____

Telegraph Timing Test Answer Key

Total Passage Word Count: 122 words

Sample Phrasing Reference (Correct Highlighting Locations):

(slashes indicate correct natural breaks)

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. /

Benchmark for 5th Grade Readers:

- 1st Read: 115–140 WPM
- 2nd Read: 135–160 WPM
- Typical Growth: +15–25 WPM between reads

Teacher Notes / Guide

Implementation Tips:

- Model the first few phrase breaks aloud for the class.
- Emphasize that phrases represent **meaningful word groups**, not random chunks.
- Have students time each other using the one-minute dash format.
- Encourage rereading until phrasing sounds natural and speech-like.

Extension Idea: Integrate short comprehension questions to connect fluency with understanding of **historical innovations** in communication.