

Braille Bible



A pack put
together by the
Bible Society

- Happy Birthday Louis Braille!
 - Make your own Comic Strip
 - Interesting facts and figures
 - Explore Ghana
 - Design your own material
 - Take a look at the Braille Bible

Note to Teacher

Join in the celebration of Louis Braille's birthday with the 'Braille Bible' pack.

The 'Braille Bible' pack will help your group learn about the story of Louis Braille, the country of Ghana and how Braille is being used there. You can also help the Bible Societies in Ireland to raise funds for the production and placement of Braille Bibles into Special Schools in Ghana.

We are sure that you will find this pack to be fun-filled and overflowing with interesting ideas and facts to get your children enthused about Ghana and the importance of the Bible. We hope too that this pack will fit into your teaching and cover different aspects of the curriculum.

- The pack consists of Information Sheets and Worksheets. Use all of them or pick and choose which activities would suit your pupils. Please feel free to make as many copies as you require.
- In addition to the Worksheets you will find a Fundraising Poster to help you set targets for your group if you decide to do some fundraising.
- You can find out more about the Bible Society on our website:

www.biblesociety.ie

Please feel free to contact Judy Wilkinson if you need any more information or help. You can find us at,

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Louis Braille

Louis Braille was born on the 4th January 1809 in a small village called Coupvray in France. His dad had a workshop at his house where he made things out of leather, and Louis liked to watch his dad while he worked.

When Louis was three years old he decided to go into the workshop by himself and have a go at making a harness. While he was trying to cut a piece of leather, his hand slipped and the tool went into his eye! There was no medicine that could help him, and Louis became blind.



Louis' father wanted to help him and so he taught him to read. Louis would trace his finger over the shapes of letters made with nails placed in leather.

PARIS



Louis learnt quickly and when he was ten years old he got the chance to go to the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris.

Louis got to learn lots of different subjects at this school, which he loved! He really liked science and was always doing different experiments.

FACT

Louis became a very good organist. He got paid to play the organ in different churches around Paris!

While Louis was at school he continued to read using raised letters. There weren't many books written in this way and all the children were eager to read anything they could.

Louis wanted to find an easier way for children who were blind to read. So he started experimenting with different shapes and material.

Louis was fifteen years old when he completed the alphabet using raised dots. This has become known as the 'Braille' alphabet.

**B
R
A
I
L
L
E**

● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	● ○ ● ○ ○ ○	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	● ● ○ ● ○ ○	● ○ ○ ● ○ ○	● ● ● ○ ● ○	● ● ● ● ○ ○	● ○ ● ● ○ ○	○ ● ● ○ ○ ○	○ ● ● ● ○ ○
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
● ○ ○ ○ ● ○	● ○ ● ○ ● ○	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	● ● ○ ● ○ ○	● ○ ○ ● ○ ○	● ● ● ○ ● ○	● ● ● ● ○ ○	● ○ ● ● ○ ○	○ ● ● ○ ○ ○	○ ● ● ● ○ ○
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
● ○ ○ ○ ● ●	● ○ ● ○ ● ●	○ ● ● ● ○ ○	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	● ● ○ ● ○ ○	● ○ ○ ● ○ ○	● ○ ○ ● ○ ○			
u	v	w	x	y	z				

A leaflet was produced to introduce this new method. It had a very long title!

'Method of Writing Words, Music and Plainsong by Means of Dots for Use by the Blind and Arranged for Them'

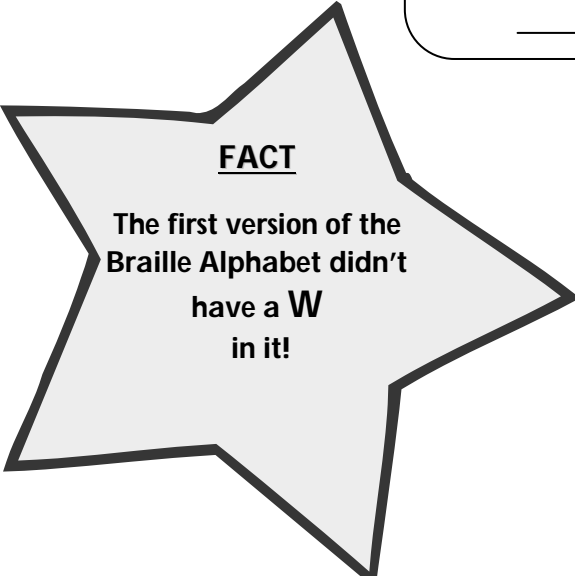
FACT

There are 63 different combinations of the 6 dots!

People who are blind use Braille by running their fingers along the raised dots from left to right.

Decode this word using the Braille Alphabet.

● ○	● ○	● ○	○ ●	● ○	● ○	● ○
● ○	● ●	○ ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	○ ●
○ ○	● ○	○ ○	○ ○	● ○	● ○	○ ○
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____




Now try writing your name in Braille!

Louis stayed at the school in Paris for many years, and became a well loved teacher there. He continued to use Braille to teach the children and in 1844 it became the official method of reading and writing.

The school, while being a home for many children, wasn't a very nice place to live. It was a very old building and was dark and damp. Over the years these conditions made Louis very ill and in 1852 he died from tuberculosis at a young age.

Louis had had a great impact on people during his life. His alphabet spread all across the world and is still used today.



Happy Birthday!

How old would Louis Braille have been this year? See if you can work it out.

Make a birthday card for Louis Braille. If he was around today what message would you put inside it?

Can you remember all the bits of the story of Louis Braille? Try making the story into a comic strip, using all the points of the story.

Braille Today

More than 300 million people in the world today are blind or so badly visually impaired that they cannot read.



Most people who are blind live in less developed countries.

Thos people that are blind are usually poor.

What different types of books can you think of? Here are a couple to get you started...

Novel, dictionary,

People who are blind can read all the same books as you can, just in a different way!



This picture shows a group of boys carrying one Braille Bible.

There are thousands of different languages spoken across the world, but how many can you think of. Try and think of a different language for every letter of the alphabet. If you get stuck use an atlas or the internet to help you.

The Bible comes in many different formats including Braille!

The Bible in Braille takes a lot of work to produce - it usually takes around 45 books to make up one Bible! Imagine trying to carry that into school!

FACT

There are 6912 languages in the world today, yet only 40 languages have the Bible in Braille!

The Bible Society wants to help blind people all across the world to get their own Bible. Read on to find out how people in Ghana are getting their own Braille Bibles.

Ghana Factfile

How much do you know about Ghana? Read these facts to learn more.

23,382,848
people live in
Ghana

Ghana is along the West coast of
Africa, and is about the same size
as the United Kingdom.



Ghana used to be
known as the
'Gold Coast'
as it is Africa's second
largest gold producer.



The Capital City
of Ghana is Accra
- can you find it
on the map?

FACT

**In most of West Africa
it is seen as rude to
use your left hand for
things like touching
food and shaking
hands!**

Lake Volta, in Ghana, is the world's
largest artificial lake. It was created
when a dam, 370m wide and 124m tall,
was built at Akosombo.

How tall are you? Can you work out
how many of you it would take to reach
that height?

Why don't you try making the flag
of Ghana? You could make it as a
group and use different materials.
The top strip is red, the middle one
yellow and the bottom strip green.
The star in the middle is black.

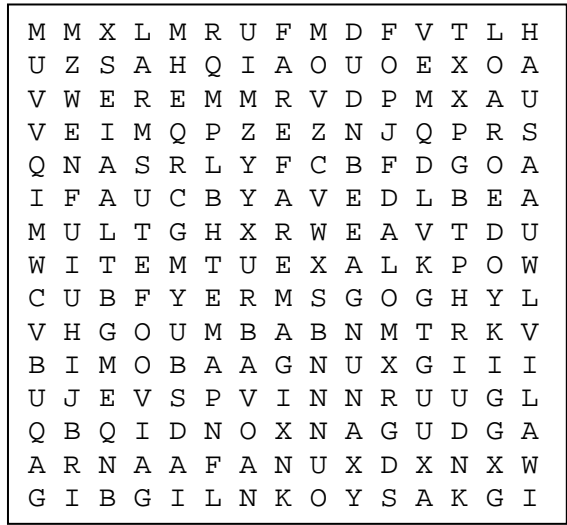


There are many different tribes in Ghana, all with their own language...

There are 79 languages in this one country!!

See how many of these languages you can find in the wordsearch.

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| ADANGBE | BIMOBA |
| CHUMBURUNG | DOMPO |
| EWE | FAREFARE |
| GIKYODE | HAUSA |
| KONNI | LIGBI |
| MAMPRULI | NAFAANRA |
| PAASAAL | SIWU |
| TEM | WALI |



Kente is a hand-loom woven cloth made in Ghana. It is usually very colourful and certain designs are worn to certain events. Every design has a name and these come from names of people or rulers, creatures, events, clans, war divisions, or as a result of social change, natural objects and proverbs.

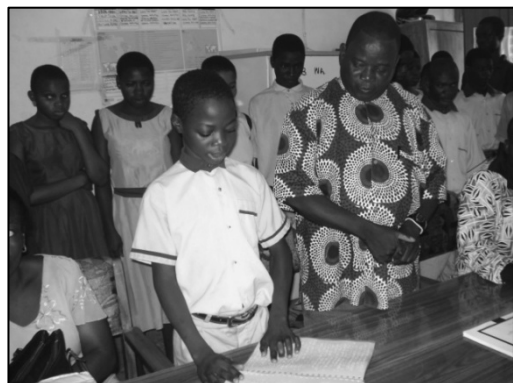
Try and make your own design and give it a name - remember that the name has to have something to do with the design e.g. if your design was red, yellow and green then it could be called 'Ghana Flag'.

Being Blind in Ghana

There are many people in Ghana who are blind but, because this country is a poor one, they don't have very many Braille books that they can read.

Since 2005 the Bible Society has been providing schools in Ghana with Braille Bibles. These help the children to learn how to read, and they love reading all the different stories in the Bible.

It takes a lot of work to get the Bible in Braille... it needs to be translated, checked, put together into books, printed on stiff paper and then distributed to people.



A student at Wa School for the Blind reads a portion of the Bible in Braille

We think it's worth it - do you?

God and the Bible

What is the Bible?

How much do you think you know about the Bible?

In a group make a poster to show people what the Bible is. Think about what it looks like and what you can find inside it. Maybe some people in your group will know things that you don't - remember to listen to everyone and to work together to create a really good poster.

We know that we can get the Bible in a book and the Bible written in Braille, but what other ways can we get the Bible. See if you can think of any other ways...



How would you feel if you were blind and couldn't read the Bible or any other books? Remember that you wouldn't be able to read sign posts or what it says on food packages...

Think about why we would want to put the Bible into Braille and other formats?

How could you help people like the school children in Ghana who can't read?

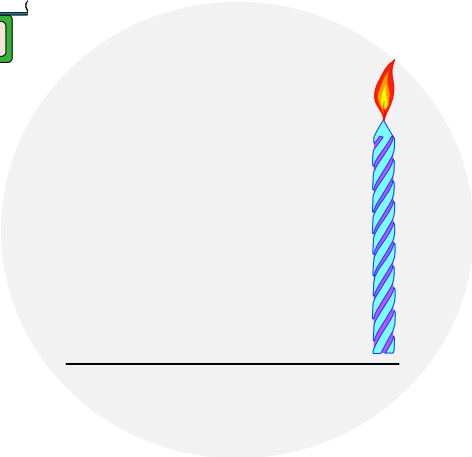
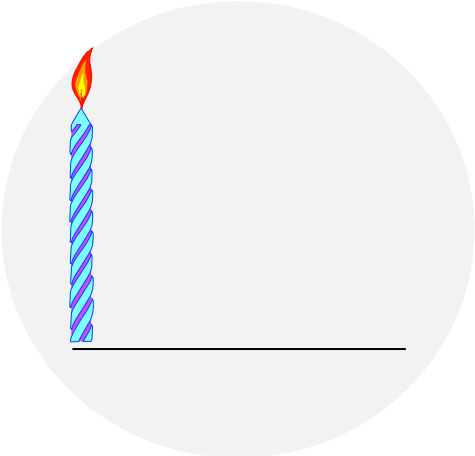
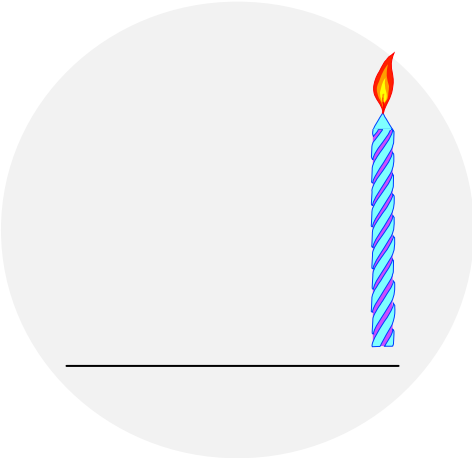
Ans: Ways we can get the Bible... different languages, Children's Bibles, DVD, audiocassette, CD, comic strip, Megavoice and Proclaimer (both solar powered recording)

These ways are more expensive to produce and are not usually available!

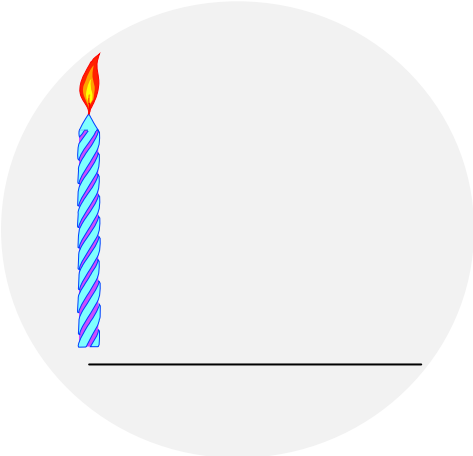


Proclaimer

Braille Bible



Braille books are a lot bigger than the books we read. Can you make your way through all these books? Try to reach your targets one candle at a time. Each time you reach a candle add one to Louis Braille's Birthday Cake!



Braille Scriptures

Size...

- A complete Braille Bible is usually made up of about 44 single, large, bulky volumes: 10-12 volumes for the NT and 30-32 volumes for the OT.
- Special thick paper is needed to emboss durable dots
- Modern Braille printing technology now allows sheets to be printed on both sides. The dots of one side are placed just in between the dots and lines of the other side.
- Before double sided printing was possible, a complete Braille Bible had twice as many volumes...

Cost...

- Thick paper for Braille printing is expensive.
- Braille printing technology is expensive.
- Preparation of the page layout for Bible text in Braille is layout intensive and thus expensive.
- Braille proof reading is also expensive; it usually involves a sighted and a blind person working side by side to compare the printed text with the Braille version.
- Small print runs for Braille Bible portions in one language make a Braille Bible even more expensive. The printing of larger quantities is not a feasible option because of the size of a Bible: printing larger quantities would require too much storage space.
- The production cost for one complete Braille Bible is about 50 times higher than that for a print Bible: about €400 per Bible!
- This does not include the cost of the development of a transcription program, the conversion into Braille, further layout work, additional proofreading, etc, which can easily amount to another €4,000 for each language.

Poverty...

- Blindness is often closely related to poverty.
- Most blind people are found in the southern hemisphere.
- Statistics show that those who are blind are mainly also those who are poor.
- They can least afford to pay €400 for a Bible!