

Name: _____

Louis Braille's Legacy

This week, you read about Louis Braille (page 3). The passage below contains more information on his life. Read the passage carefully. For each underlined word, choose its synonym from the box below. Synonyms are words that share the same meaning, or close to the same meaning. Write the synonym on the line with the matching number. The first one is done for you.

Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France. When Louis was 3 years old, he was playing in his father's workshop. While trying to cut a piece of leather, Louis accidentally cut his eye with a knife. When an infection¹ in the injured eye spread to his other eye, Louis lost his sight² in both eyes.

At 9 years of age, Louis won a scholarship to attend³ the National Institute for Blind Children, a school in Paris, France. Louis was an excellent⁴ student. He also became an accomplished⁵ organist and cellist. When Louis was about 12 years old, Charles Barbier visited the institute⁶. Barbier had created a way of writing that used a 12-dot system⁷ and speech sounds. The system of writing was called sonography.

Over the next three years, Louis worked to simplify⁸ Barbier's 12-dot system of writing. Braille created a system consisting⁹ of 63 characters, each made up of 1 to 6 dots arranged in a 6-position form. The system was eventually revised¹⁰ to include symbols for numbers and music. Today, people around the world who are blind or have impaired vision use Braille's method of writing.

1. illness

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

SYNONYMS

school
method
vision
make easier
go to

made up
outstanding
changed
expert
illness