

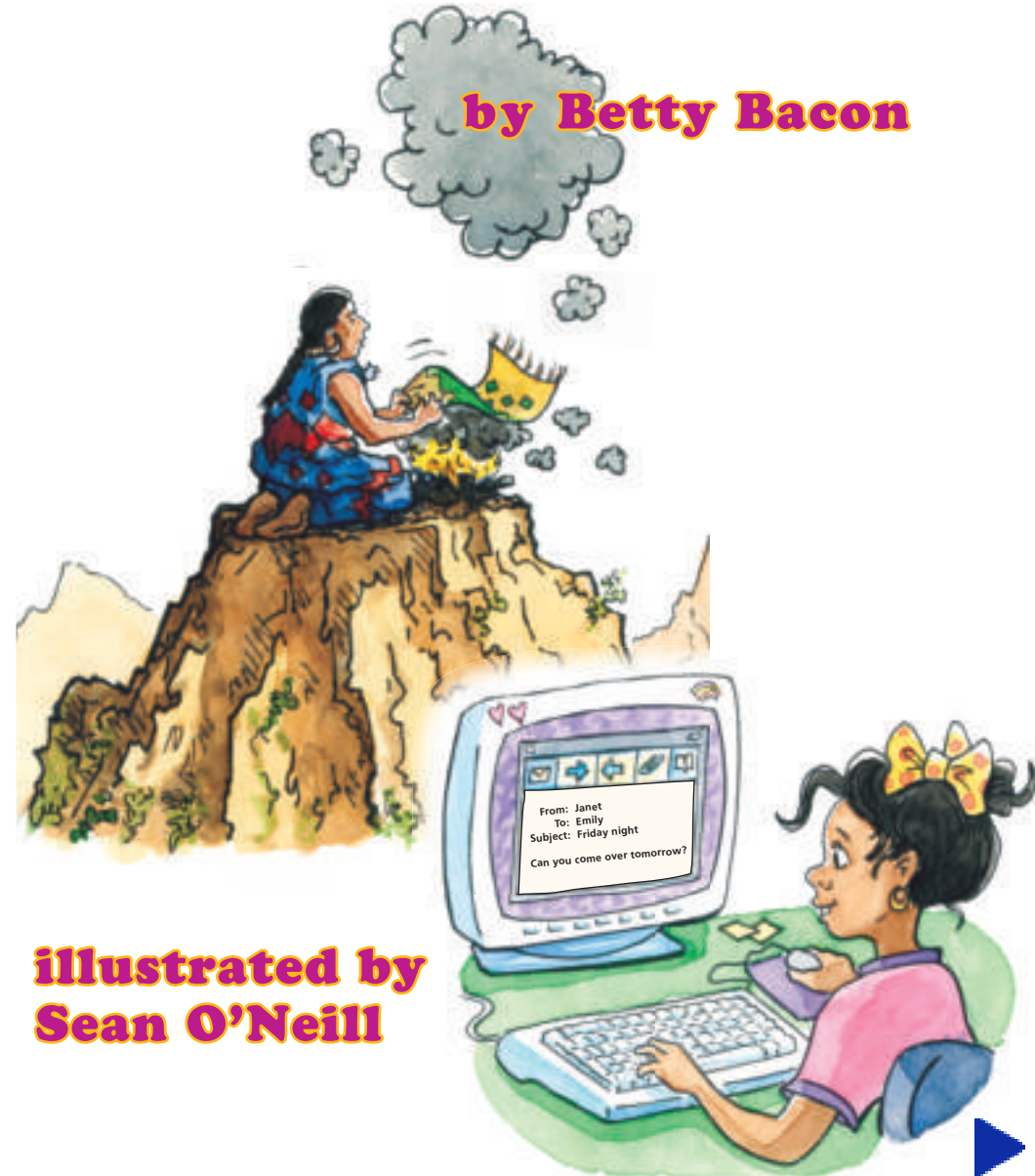
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Social Studies

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# The Story of Communication

by Betty Bacon



illustrated by  
Sean O'Neill

Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draw Conclusions</li><li>• Compare and Contrast</li><li>• Monitor and Fix Up</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labels</li></ul>

Scott Foresman Reading Street 1.5.5



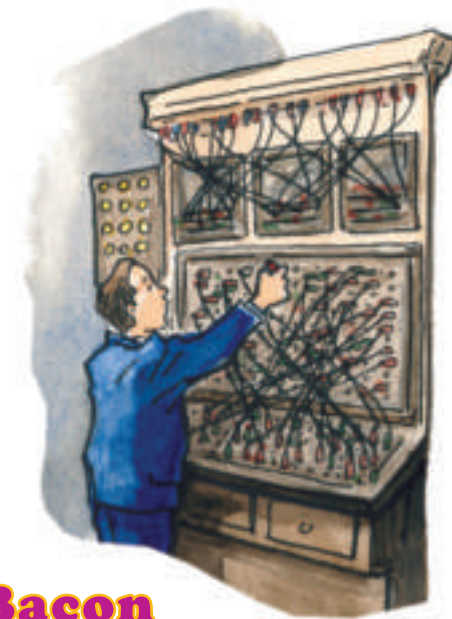
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by  
**Betty Bacon**

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Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York  
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois  
Coppell, Texas • Ontario, California • Mesa, Arizona





If you want to talk with someone who is far away, you can call them on the telephone. But what did people do before there were telephones?

People have always communicated with others who were far away. They found many ways to do that. Let's learn about some of the early ways.

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ISBN: 0-328-13227-6

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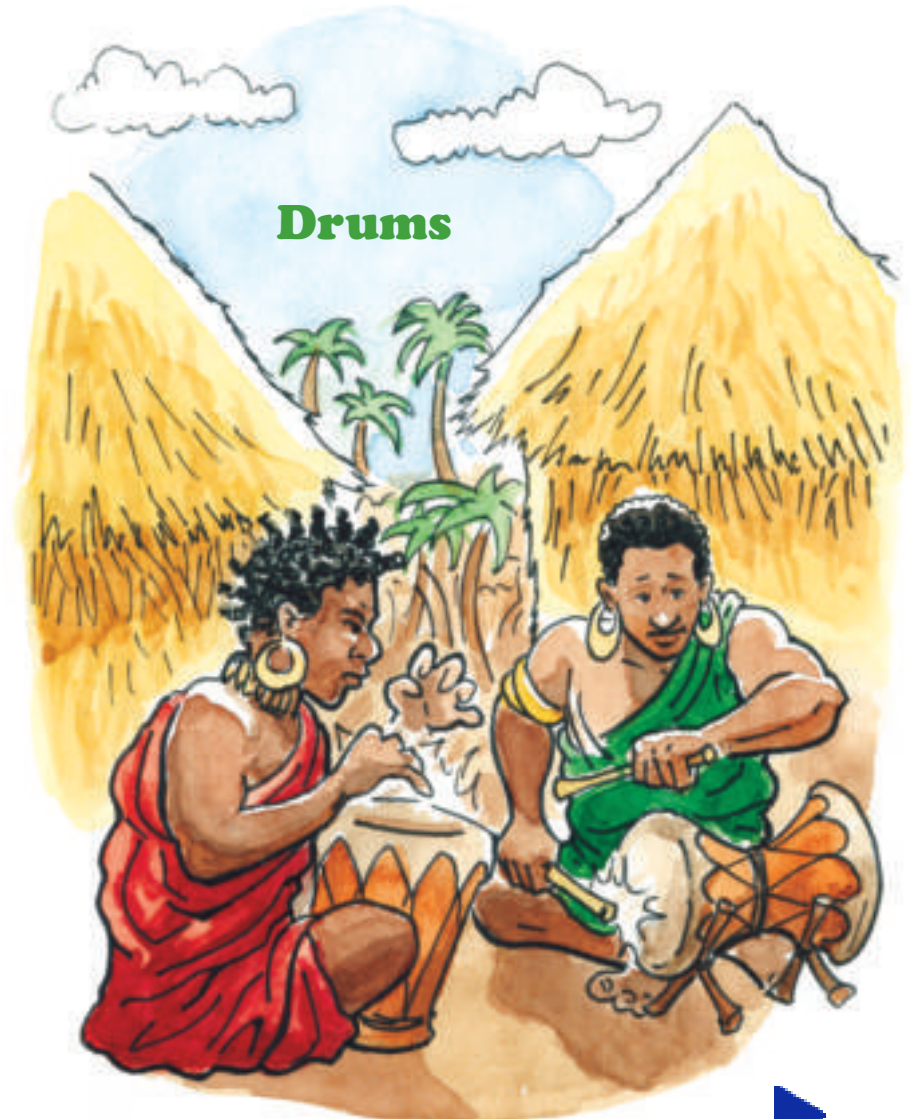
## Smoke



Some groups of people used drums to send messages. The sounds the drums made could be heard far away.

People played drums to tell others when hunts or parties were going to happen.

## Drums

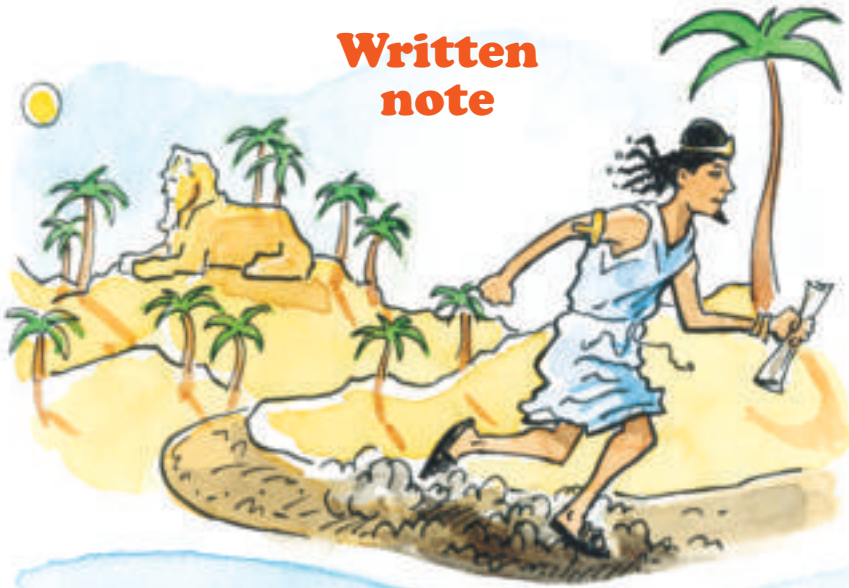


Some people used smoke to send messages. They would wave blankets over a smoky fire. Puffs of smoke would rise into the air. Different numbers of smoke puffs meant different things. For example, one puff of smoke might mean danger!

People far away saw the smoke and could read the messages.



## Written note



Later, people started sending messages in letters through the mail.

Before there were trains or cars, people used horses to take mail from one place to another.


## Mail



Drum and smoke signals could send messages quickly and far away. But the messages couldn't be very long.


People could carry longer messages from place to place. Once people could write, they began to send written notes.



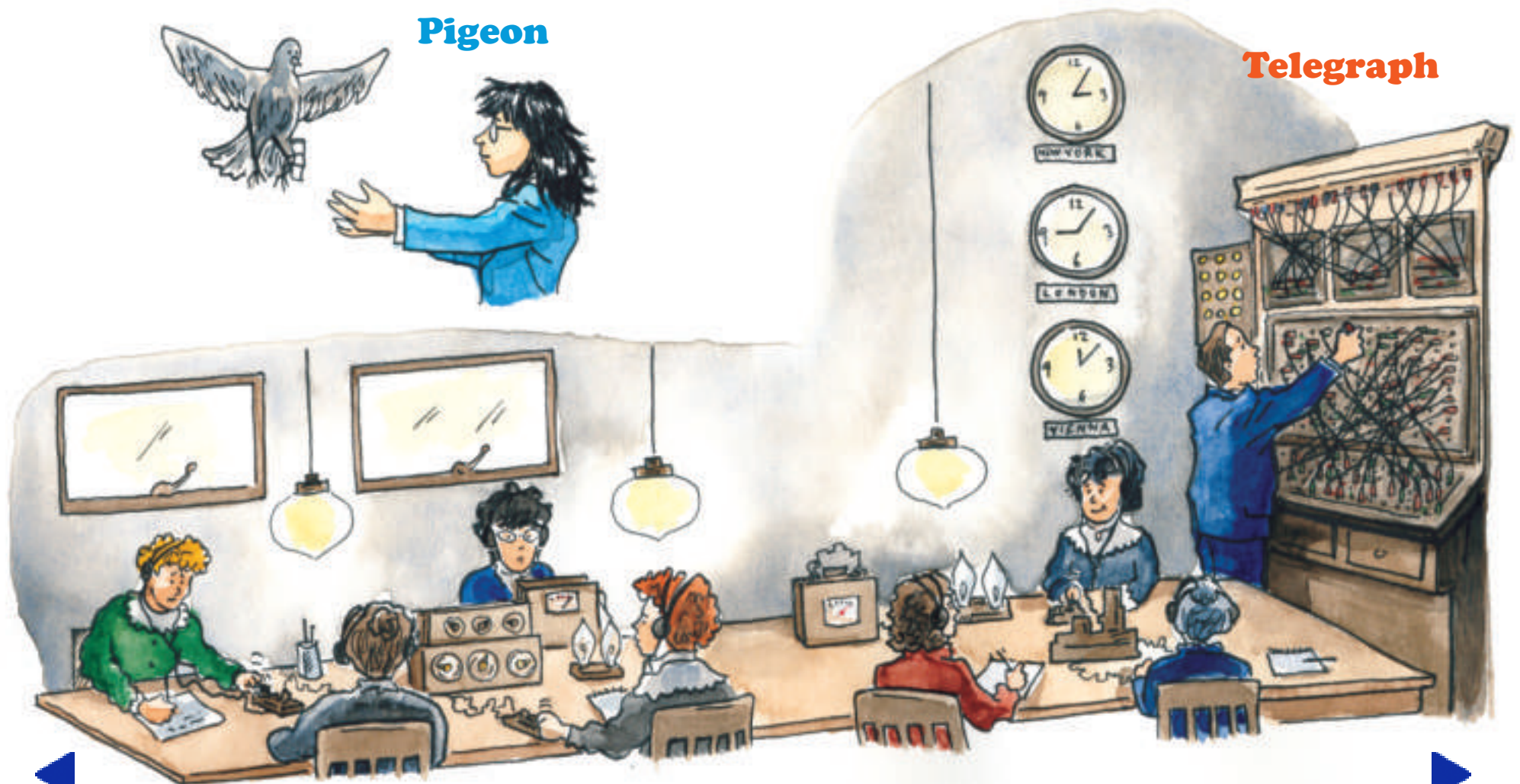
 Even though people ran or rode fast horses, the mail took a long time to get from one place to the next.

Pigeons are small, fast birds that can be taught to fly from one place to another. People would strap a small note to a pigeon's leg. The pigeon would then fly with the note.



 In 1844, the first telegraph message was sent by a man named Samuel Morse. This was a new way to communicate.

Using electricity, Morse made a machine that sent beeps from one place to another. The beeps stood for the alphabet. For example, one fast beep and one slow beep meant the letter A.



## Telephone



Telephones have changed a lot since Bell's first phone. Now, there are different kinds of telephones. What kinds of phones can you see in the picture?



Then, a man named Alexander Bell tried to make a different machine. He knew a lot about science. He thought he could send spoken words, not just beeps, through electric wires.

In 1876, Bell built the first telephone, a machine that sent spoken words by electricity. Now people could talk to each other right away!





**Computer**



Using the telephone is a fast way to communicate to people far away. What about a computer? A lot of people send messages to each other through their computers. Have you ever done that?

Over the years, people have found many ways to communicate over great distances. Soon, we may learn even more.



## Think and Share

Read Together

1. Why do you think people have come up with so many different ways to communicate over long distances?
2. Did any information in this book confuse you? Go back and reread. Use the illustrations on the page to review the ideas. Make a list of important facts on the page. Use a chart like the one below to help you.

Page	Important Facts

3. Go back through the book and find the words *built*, *early*, *learn*, *science*, and *through*. Write a sentence for each word.
4. What do you think future phones will look and act like? Imagine one future phone and draw a picture of it. Present it to the class.

