Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)

British-born American inventor and teacher of the deaf, most famous for his invention of the telephone.

Bell was born on March 3, 1847, in Edinburgh, and was educated at the universities of Edinburgh and London. He emigrated to Canada in 1870 and to the United States in 1871. In the United States he began teaching deaf mutes, publicizing the system called visible speech. The system, which was developed by his father, the Scottish educator Alexander Melville Bell, shows how the lips, tongue, and throat are used in the articulation of sound. In 1872 Bell founded a school for deaf mutes in Boston, Massachusetts. The school subsequently became part of Boston University, where Bell was appointed Professor of Vocal Physiology. He became a naturalized US citizen in 1882.

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