

# Helen Keller Unit Study Instructions

Thank you for downloading the Helen Keller Unit Study! You are going to have lots of fun and learn so much with it! You will want to find one or more biographies to accompany this study. Who Was Helen Keller? by Gare Thompson is a good one!

For more ideas, check out our blog post [Explore Helen Keller's Life with Hands-On Activities](#).

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Credits:

Frames by:



# A Biography of Helen Keller

## The First Two Years

Helen Keller was born \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. When Helen was 19 months old, she became \_\_\_\_\_. She recovered, but was left \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## After Her Illness

By age 5, Helen made up \_\_\_\_\_ to communicate with her family. When she had trouble communicating, she threw a \_\_\_\_\_. Relatives suggested to her parents that she be \_\_\_\_\_, but her family did not want to do this.

Helen relied on her sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to learn about the world around her. Helen was \_\_\_\_\_, once locking her mother in a pantry for three hours. She was also a \_\_\_\_\_ to herself and others, including her \_\_\_\_\_.

## Finding Helen Help

Helen's parents took her to visit \_\_\_\_\_, who invented the \_\_\_\_\_. He helped them find \_\_\_\_\_ who had been \_\_\_\_\_ until she had an operation. She was not sure about being Helen's teacher, but agreed and took \_\_\_\_\_ months to prepare for her new job.

The first few days Annie taught Helen, Helen was \_\_\_\_\_. Annie first taught Helen words by \_\_\_\_\_ them on her \_\_\_\_\_. She also worked on teaching Helen basic skills like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ was the first word that Annie spelled that Helen understood. Now Helen began to learn many

\_\_\_\_\_ and her family learned to \_\_\_\_\_ with her.

She also learned to write using a \_\_\_\_\_ board and to read using the \_\_\_\_\_ system. Helen started to become famous because the \_\_\_\_\_ printed stories about her and Annie. And then Helen was invited to the \_\_\_\_\_ where she met

\_\_\_\_\_.

## Going Away to School

After that visit, she traveled to the

\_\_\_\_\_ where she spoke at \_\_\_\_\_ . Then she spent the rest of her summer at \_\_\_\_\_, which became her favorite place. Helen and Annie eventually decided to live at the

\_\_\_\_\_ where she was able to continue her education. Helen wrote a \_\_\_\_\_ to the writer, Oliver Wendell Holmes and he published it in a \_\_\_\_\_ called The Atlantic Monthly.

Shortly after that, Helen started to learn to \_\_\_\_\_.

While at Perkins, Helen got in trouble for writing a \_\_\_\_\_ that was already written by someone else. She said it was a \_\_\_\_\_, but she had to leave \_\_\_\_\_ anyway.

Helen found a new school in \_\_\_\_\_.

Helen was able to take many field trips while at that school and was greatly affected by a trip to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Helen also met the author, \_\_\_\_\_ while living in there.

Helen was determined to go to \_\_\_\_\_ and wanted to attend \_\_\_\_\_, the top women's college in the country. She worked hard to prepare. She applied to Radcliffe and was

\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## College and Adult Years

Helen's first year of college was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. In her second year, she started publishing  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the Ladies' Home Journal.  
They were then made into a \_\_\_\_\_ that was very successful.  
She published a second book titled \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ The money  
from her books was not enough to support her and she wanted to find a way to  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Helen started giving \_\_\_\_\_ and people loved them  
even though her voice was not \_\_\_\_\_. She and Annie went on a  
\_\_\_\_\_ and made a  
\_\_\_\_\_, which did not do very well. Helen  
once again needed to find a way to make \_\_\_\_\_.  
So she and Annie became an act in a stage show. These kind of shows were  
called \_\_\_\_\_. This paid well. In 1924, Helen  
took a job with the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and she worked there the rest of her life. She continued to  
\_\_\_\_\_, meet famous \_\_\_\_\_, and  
travel around the \_\_\_\_\_ to help people who were  
\_\_\_\_\_. In 1936, Anne Sullivan  
\_\_\_\_\_. Helen passed away in \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Answer Key

## The First Two Years

Helen Keller was born June, 27 1880 in Tuscumbia, AL. When Helen was 19 months old, she became very ill. She recovered, but was left deaf and blind.

## After Her Illness

By age 5, Helen made up 50 signs to communicate with her family. When she had trouble communicating, she threw a tantrum. Relatives suggested to her parents that she be sent away, but her family did not want to do this.

Helen relied on her sense of touch and sense of smell to learn about the world around her. Helen was mischievous, once locking her mother in a pantry for three hours. She was also a danger to herself and others, including her sister.

## Finding Helen Help

Helen's parents took her to visit Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone. He helped them find Anne Sullivan who had been blind until she had an operation. She was not sure about being Helen's teacher, but agreed and took 2 months to prepare for her new job.

The first few days Annie taught Helen, Helen was challenging (or difficult). Annie first taught Helen words by writing them on her hand. She also worked on teaching Helen basic skills like eating with a spoon, using a napkin, combing her hair, and washing her hands.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Water** \_\_\_ was the first word that Annie spelled that Helen understood. Now Helen began to learn many \_\_\_ **words** \_\_\_ and her family learned to \_\_\_ **communicate** \_\_\_ with her.

She also learned to write using a \_\_\_ **wooden (or grooved)** \_\_\_ board and to read using the \_\_\_ **Braille** \_\_\_ system. Helen started to become famous because the \_\_\_ **newspaper** \_\_\_ printed stories about her and Annie. And then Helen was invited to the \_\_\_ **White House** \_\_\_ where she met \_\_\_ **President Cleveland** \_\_\_.

## Going Away to School

After that visit, she traveled to the \_\_\_ **Perkins School** \_\_\_ where she spoke at \_\_\_ **graduation (or commencement)** \_\_\_. Then she spent the rest of her summer at \_\_\_ **Cape Cod** \_\_\_, which became her favorite place. Helen and Annie eventually decided to live at the \_\_\_ **Perkins School** \_\_\_ where she was able to continue her education. Helen wrote a \_\_\_ **letter** \_\_\_ to the writer, Oliver Wendell Holmes and he published it in a \_\_\_ **magazine** \_\_\_ called The Atlantic Monthly. Shortly after that, Helen started to learn to \_\_\_ **speak** \_\_\_. While at Perkins, Helen got in trouble for writing a \_\_\_ **story** \_\_\_ that was already written by someone else. She said it was a \_\_\_ **mistake** \_\_\_, but she had to leave \_\_\_ **Perkins** \_\_\_ anyway.

Helen found a new school in \_\_\_ **New York City** \_\_\_. Helen was able to take many field trips while at that school and was greatly affected by a trip to the \_\_\_ **tenements** \_\_\_. Helen also met the author, \_\_\_ **Mark Twain** \_\_\_ while living in there.

Helen was determined to go to \_\_\_ **college** \_\_\_ and wanted to attend \_\_\_ **Radcliffe** \_\_\_, the top women's college in the country. She worked hard to prepare. She applied to Radcliffe and was \_\_\_ **accepted** \_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## College and Adult Years

Helen's first year of college was lonely and difficult. In her second year, she started publishing themes (or stories) in the Ladies' Home Journal. They were then made into a book that was very successful. She published a second book titled The World I Live In. The money from her books was not enough to support her and she wanted to find a way to make a living (or make money).

Helen started giving speeches and people loved them even though her voice was not clear. She and Annie went on a lecture tour and made a movie, which did not do very well. Helen once again needed to find a way to make money. So she and Annie became an act in a stage show. These kind of shows were called vaudeville shows. This paid well. In 1924, Helen took a job with the American Foundation for the Blind and she worked there the rest of her life. She continued to write, meet famous people, and travel around the world to help people who were blind (or disabled). In 1936, Anne Sullivan passed away. Helen passed away in 1968.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Biography of Helen Keller

Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Known For: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Childhood: \_\_\_\_\_

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Education: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Education (continued): \_\_\_\_\_

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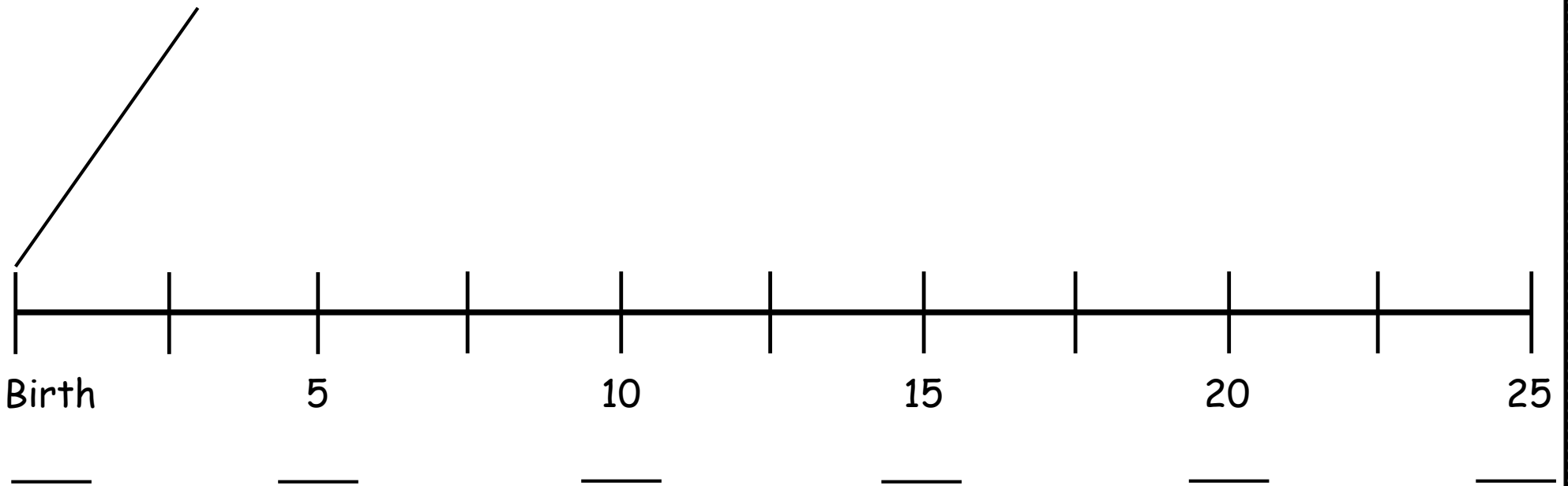
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

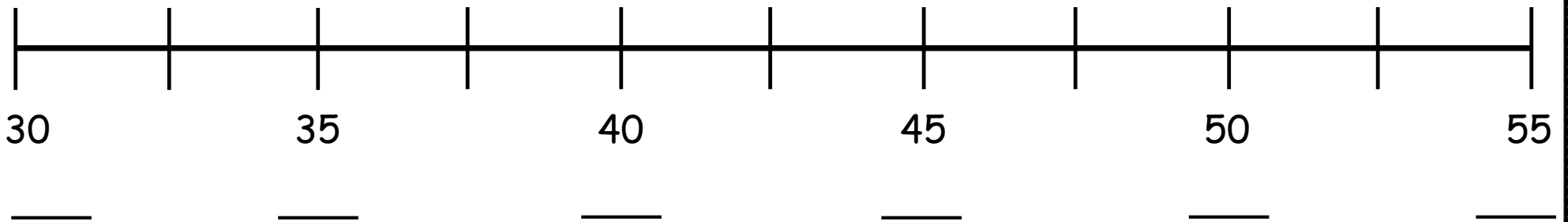


# Timeline of Helen Keller's Life

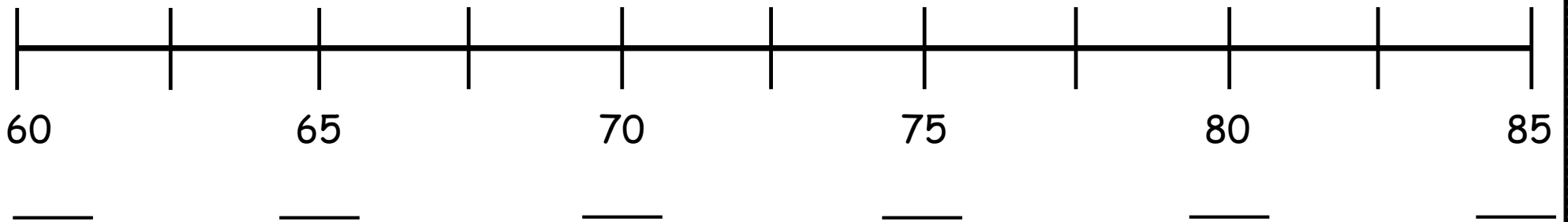
Fill-in the corresponding years below Helen's ages. Above the line, write in important or interesting events in Helen's life. You can start by writing in the place she was born on the diagonal line provided.



# Timeline of Helen Keller's Life



# Timeline of Helen Keller's Life

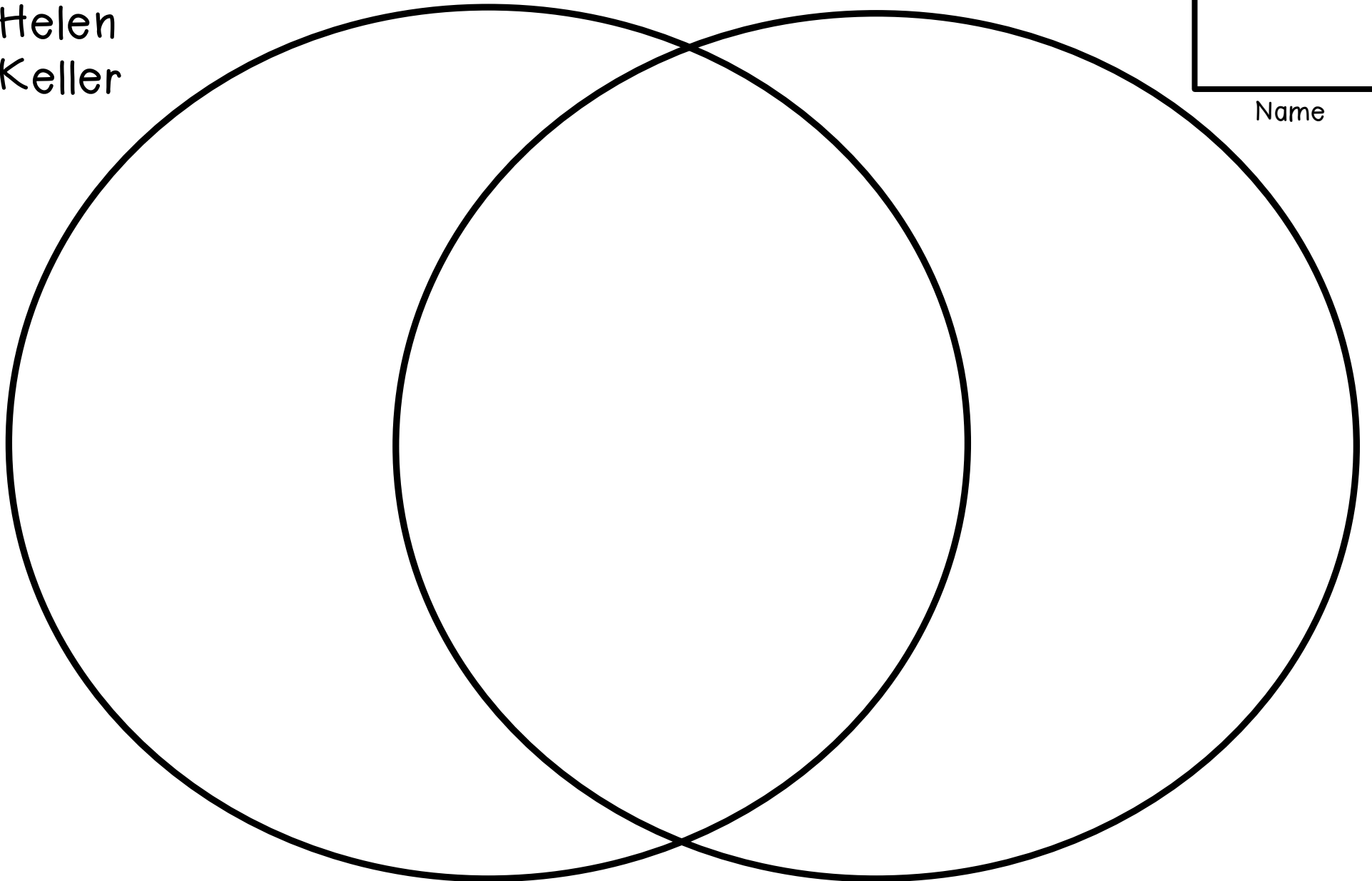


Helen died in \_\_\_\_\_ at  
the age of \_\_\_\_\_.

Compare Helen Keller to another person, such as yourself, Anne Sullivan, another woman or author in history or another person with disabilities in history (maybe Stephen Hawking?). Write the similarities in the middle where the two circles overlap. Write the differences between the people in the other parts of the circles.

Helen  
Keller

Name



# Learn About Braille

Thank you for downloading our Learn About Braille printables. Included are:

**A Braille Alphabet:** This is to be used as a reference for the two activities below. You could also print on cardstock and use a thumbtack to punch up from underneath the cardstock through the black circles. Then widen them slightly with a toothpick so that you and your children can feel what each letter feels like.

**A Read The Sentence Activity:** Print one per child and then use the Braille Alphabet to decipher what the sentence says. You could print this on cardstock and use a thumbtack to punch up from underneath the cardstock through the black circles. Then widen them slightly with a toothpick so that you and your children can try to read the sentence.

**Make Your Own Braille:** Blank Braille cells are provided so that your children can make their own Braille sentence by coloring in the corresponding circles for each letter and/or by using a thumbtack to punch up from underneath the cardstock through the corresponding circles. Then widen them slightly with a toothpick so that you feel each letter. When you come to a space between words just skip a cell. Print as many copies as may need.

# The Braille Alphabet

● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ○
○ ○	● ○	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	○ ○	● ○
○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	● ○	● ○
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l

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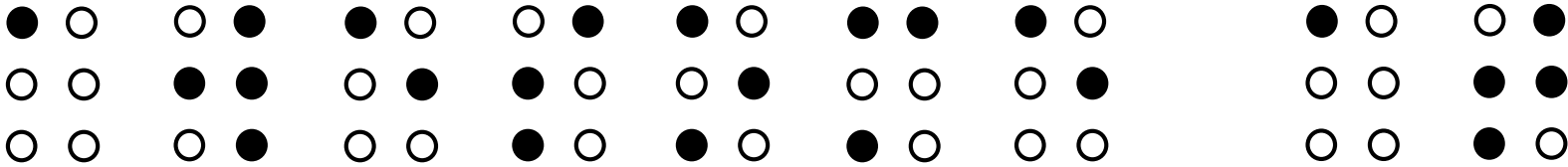
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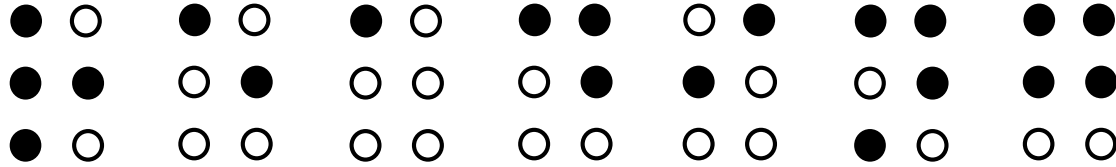
# Read the Sentence Below



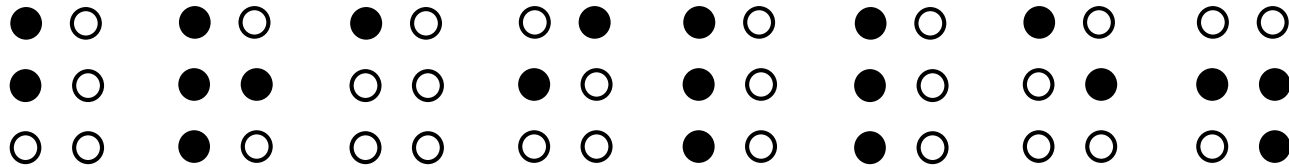
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# Make Your Own Braille

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