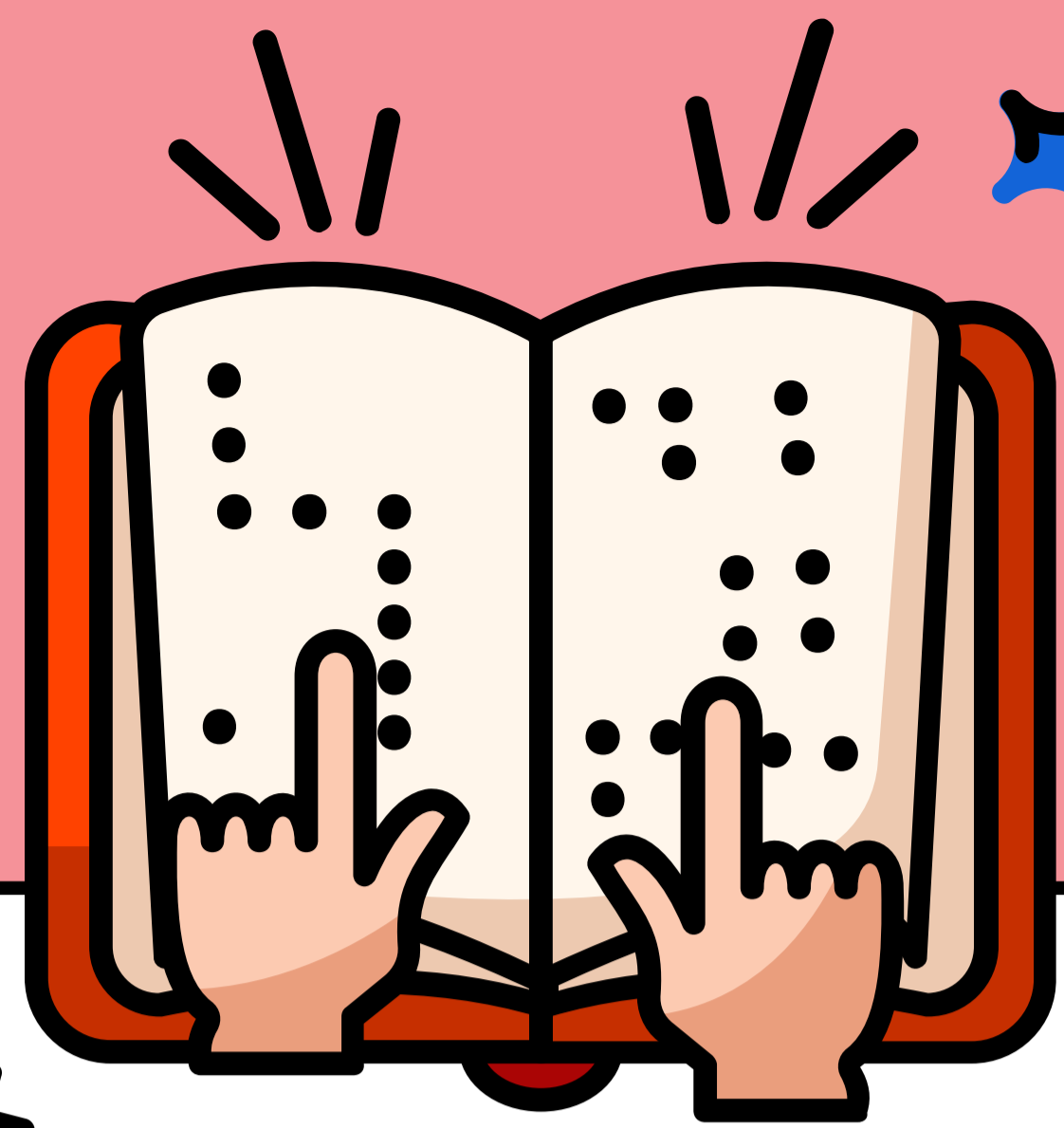


# LET'S LEARN ABOUT BRAILLE

World Braille Day is January 4



## History

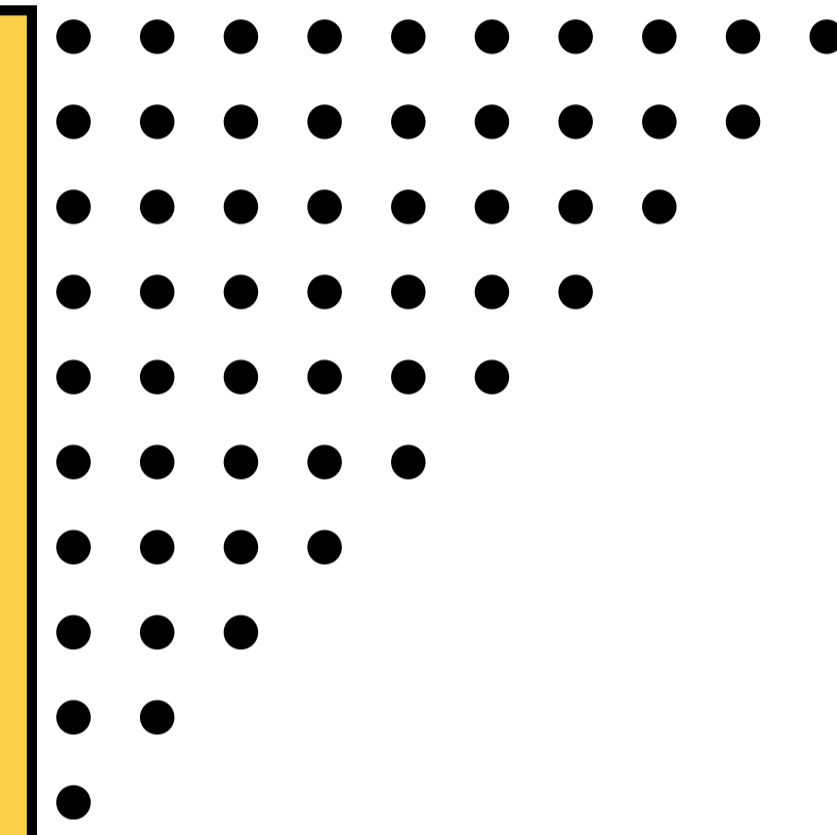
In the 1800s, French soldiers needed a system to communicate in the dark (the lamps gave their position away!). Charles Barbier invented a Night System that used raised dots to feel on leather. In 1821, Barbier introduced the system to a school for blind students where Louis Braille attended, Braille realized the dots should be felt in one touch (a cell of 6 dots). Over many years, he worked to develop the system we now know as Braille!

*Braille Alphabet*

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

## WHAT IS BRAILLE?

Braille is a code (not a language) that is used by people who are blind or have low vision. By moving their fingertips over the braille dots or using special tools to write Braille, books and written materials become accessible.



## HOW DO YOU MAKE BRAILLE?

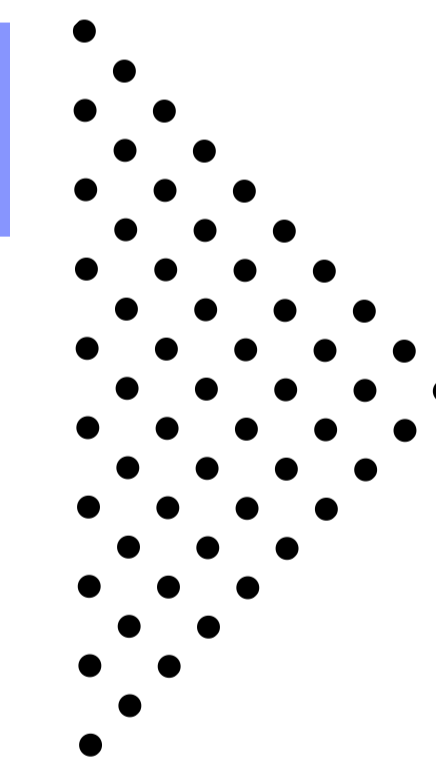


*Braillewriter*

People use tools like a slate & stylus, peg slate, Braille notetaker or Braillewriter. .

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BRAILLE

- Grade 1 Braille uses the braille alphabet to transcribe words, but this makes books VERY heavy. Many people use Grade 2 Braille, which uses contractions to shorten sentences.
- You can use braille for music! The different characters tell you the note name and not length.
- Because of screen reader technology and the accessibility of portable devices, many are not relying on Braille like they once did. Less than 10% of blind people use Braille and many advocates are fighting to help more people learn this important tool!



**Where have you seen (or felt) Braille in your community?**

*Touch the pages of this Braille book!*

