Name: _____ Date: _____

# Please Connect Me, Operator

Circle group

Long ago, you could not dial a friend on the phone. You called an operator first.

An operator sat at a big board with holes and wires. When you picked up the phone, a light blinked. She said, "Who would you like to call?"

You told her a name. She plugged a wire into the right hole. That joined your phone to your friend's phone. Then you could talk!

Now our phones connect by themselves.

## Questions

**1. Who did you call first on an old phone?**

_____

_____

**2. What did the operator sit at?**

_____

_____

**3. What did she plug into the right hole?**

_____

_____

**4. What blinked when you picked up the phone?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the operator plug in a wire?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

operator: a person who connects phone calls
wire: a thin metal string that carries power or sound
connect: to join together
blink: to turn on and off quickly

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Please Connect Me, Operator

Triangle group

Long ago, you could not dial a friend on the phone. You called an operator first.

An operator sat at a big board full of holes and wires. When you picked up the phone, a light blinked on her board. She said, "Hello, who would you like to call?"

You told her a name. She took a wire and plugged it into the right hole. That joined your phone to your friend's phone. Then you could talk!

An operator helped with every call. Now our phones connect by themselves.

## Questions

**1. Who did you call first on an old phone?**

_____

_____

**2. What did the operator sit at?**

_____

_____

**3. What did she plug into the right hole?**

_____

_____

**4. What blinked on her board when you picked up the phone?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the operator plug in a wire?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

operator: a person who connects phone calls
wire: a thin metal string that carries power or sound
connect: to join together
blink: to turn on and off quickly

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

# Please Connect Me, Operator

Square group

Long ago, you could not simply dial your friend's number on a telephone. First, you had to speak to an operator.

The operator sat in front of an enormous board that was covered with holes and wires. When you picked up your phone, a small light began to blink on her board. She would say, "Hello, who would you like to call?"

After you told her the name, she picked up a wire and plugged it into the correct hole. That joined your phone to your friend's phone, and then the two of you could talk.

Every single call needed an operator's help. Today, our phones connect all by themselves.

## Questions

**1. Who did you have to speak to first when you picked up an old phone?**

_____

_____

**2. What was the operator's board covered with?**

_____

_____

**3. What did the operator plug into the correct hole?**

_____

_____

**4. What began to blink on her board when you picked up the phone?**

_____

_____

**5. Why did the operator plug a wire into the board?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

operator: a person who connects phone calls
wire: a thin metal string that carries power or sound
connect: to join together
blink: to turn on and off quickly

## Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

# For the teacher: Please Connect Me, Operator

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

### Circle: Please Connect Me, Operator

Easier · 75 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1

1. An operator.
2. A big board with holes and wires.
3. A wire.
4. A light.
5. To join your phone to your friend's phone.

### Triangle: Please Connect Me, Operator

This passage · 89 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. An operator.
2. A big board full of holes and wires.
3. A wire.
4. A light.
5. To join your phone to your friend's phone so you could talk.

### Square: Please Connect Me, Operator

Harder · 110 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.3

1. An operator.
2. Holes and wires.
3. A wire.
4. A small light.
5. To join your phone to your friend's phone so the two of you could talk.