



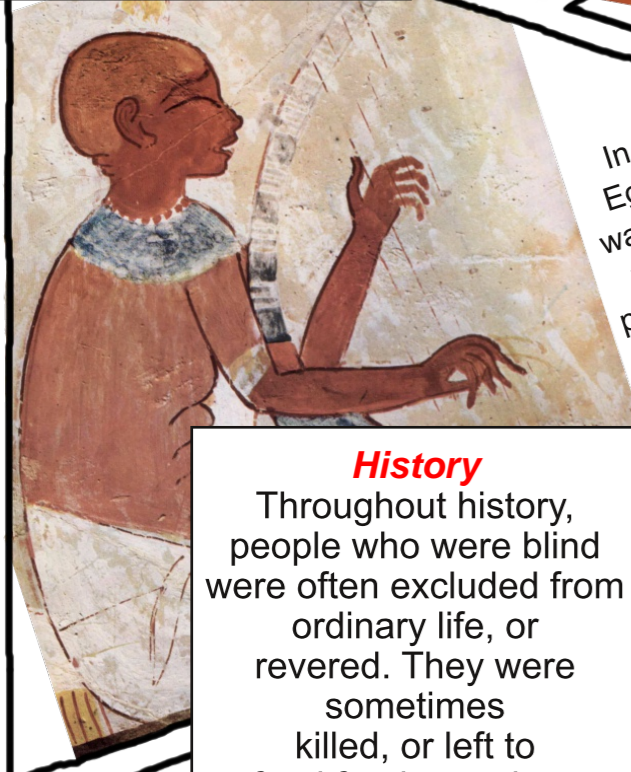
Geordi La Forge in Star Trek and Dare Devil are two blind characters who have devices to help them see. This may soon not be fiction.



The proportion of people with visual impairment increases with age and is caused by many factors.

In the early 1900s, blind people began to become more independent, with government support, rather than relying on charity.

It is estimated that 1.5 million people are living with sight loss, not correctable by glasses.



In ancient Egypt there was a respect for disabled people and this is shown in this hieroglyphic from 1500 BC showing a blind harpist.

History
Throughout history, people who were blind were often excluded from ordinary life, or revered. They were sometimes killed, or left to fend for themselves as beggars.

Current Culture

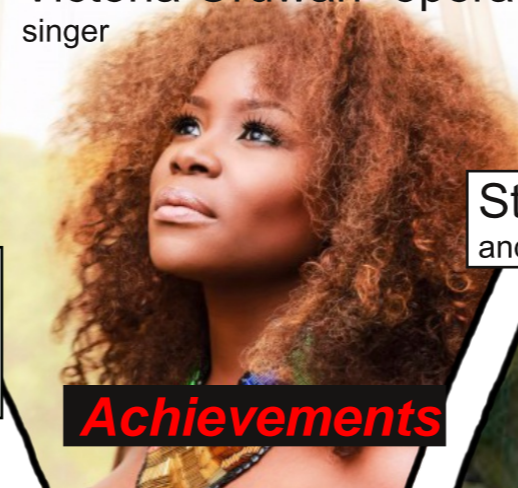
Modern technology, with mobile phones and computers, is a great help. However, people who are blind or visually impaired are still struggling to be accepted as "ordinary".



You wouldn't want to be called -

Many devices help with everyday tasks such as talking watches and adapted appliances for the kitchen.

Victoria Oruwari- opera singer



Achievements

Andrea Bocelli- Musician



Stevie Wonder- singer and UN ambassador



David Blunkett- Politician



Laurie Rubin- Photographer

Blind people, despite the barriers of attitude and access to communication, have gone on to be: **politician, musicians, writers, lawyers and mathematicians.**

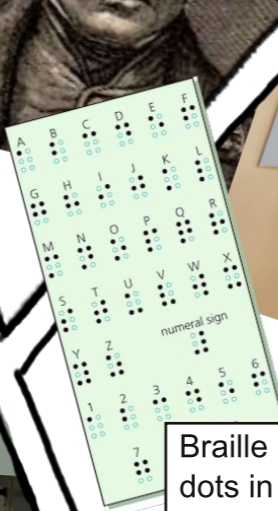
All Equal All Different: BLIND people and people with VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Mobility: getting about is a big issue and is improved by training, use of long cane and, for adults, guide dogs.

Cooking by blind film critic Tommy Edison.



Louis Braille (1809-1852)



Braille is a series of tactile dots in a code which has become the main method of written communication for blind people.

Blind people's vision in the eye is severely reduced. This can be related to the field of vision or detail or both. In England, there are 143,385 people registered as blind. 3,540 are of school age. Most attend mainstream schools with support and are helped to succeed.

Louis Braille had an accident that led to him being blind. He invented a new raised code for letters based on a "night writing" used by the French army.

