January is Braille Literacy Month

Braille is a tactile writing and reading system, in which people read using touch instead of sight.

As an alternative to print, braille offers a path to independence for people who are blind or low-vision, enabling them to read and write without assistance from anyone else.
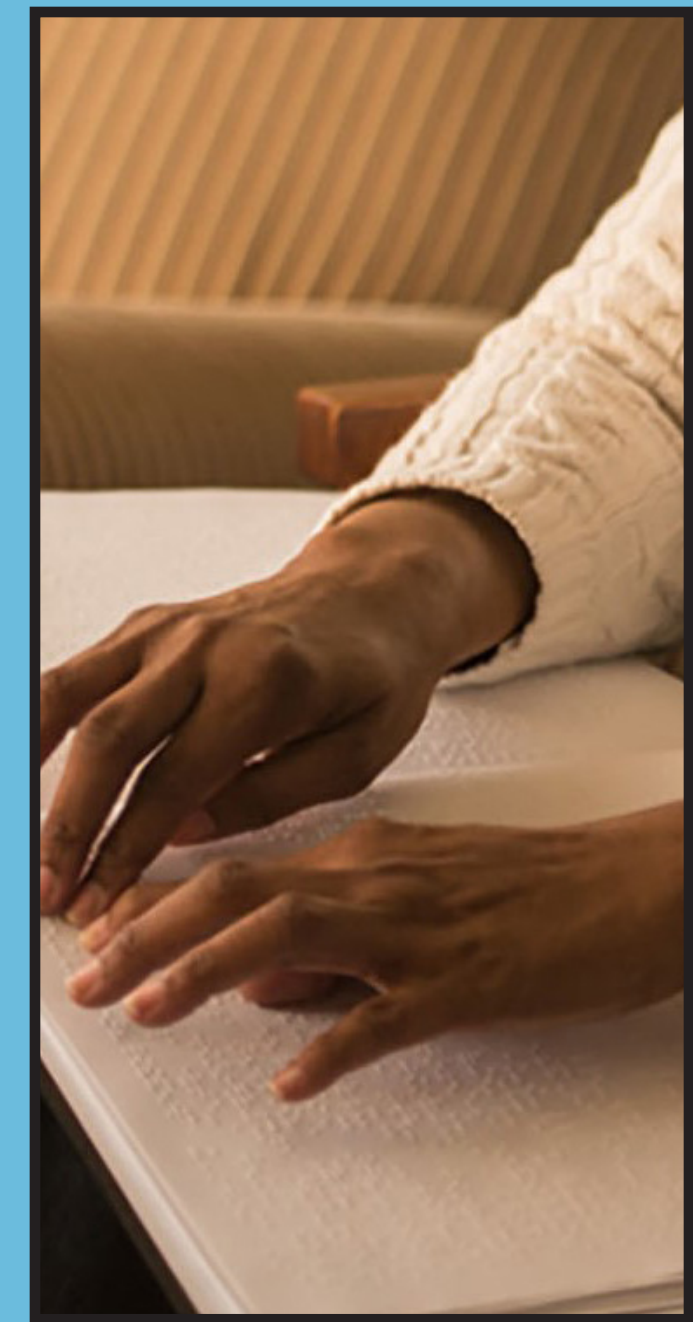
World Braille Day: January 4

Louis Braille was born in France on January 4, 1809, and lost his sight in an accident at age three. By age 16, Louis had invented a new way of reading and writing for blind people!

Now we celebrate World Braille Day each year on Louis Braille's birthday, to raise awareness of braille and salute its inventor.

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The Braille Alphabet

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

Braille is a tactile code for fingertip reading using a system of six raised dots. It was invented in 1824 by a French teenager named Louis Braille. Today, braille is used all over the world in many languages.

Some Facts About Braille

1. In braille, six dots make up a cell. There are 64 possible braille cell combinations, including an empty cell.
2. Braille is not its own language but rather a code that can be used in many languages.
3. In January 2016, the standard for English braille was updated. Now, Unified English Braille (UEB) is the standard in both the United States and the United Kingdom. UEB supports the expression of emphasis such as capitalization, bold, and underlining.
4. Braille used for mathematics differs from braille used for writing the alphabet. One widely used system for writing math in braille is called Nemeth.
5. Sheet music has its own braille code, which uses dots to represent musical notes and other notations instead of letters.
6. Braille cells are roughly the same size as 29-point Arial font. That means when standard print material is transcribed to braille, it takes up nearly three times as many pages.

From Braille Works: 10 Interesting Facts for World Braille Day (https://brailleworks.com/world-braille-day/)

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