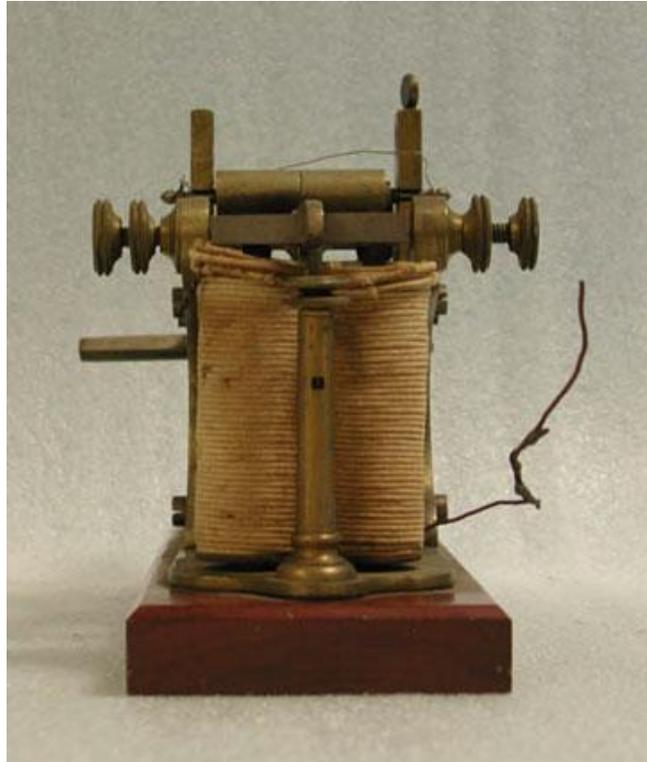


## Featured Artifact: Morse Telegraph Register

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=1139>

Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)



**Look at the artifact presented to you. In a few sentences, respond to the following questions:**

**Describe:** Objectively describe the artifact. What do you think it is made of? What does it look like? Does it look old or new? Is it intact, or is it damaged in some way?

**Analyze:** When, where or how do you think this item was used? What kind of person may have created or used this item? What significance do you think the object held, either for the creator or the user? Do you see words or images on the artifact that connect it to others (besides the creator and user)?

.....  
**Share your conclusions with a partner, then discuss the following:**

**Evaluate :** Justify why you came to those conclusions about the artifact. What further questions do you have about the object? Of those questions, which could you solve by observing the object in person and which would you need to solve with research?

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## Background Information

This telegraph register, manufactured in accord with the Morse patent, was installed in 1848 in South Bend, reputedly the first telegraph office in Indiana. Pulses of electricity caused the two vertical electromagnets to pull against an iron bar attached to the horizontal brass lever arm.

**After reading and considering the background information, compose a response to the following:**

**Analyze:** Address the following object-specific questions:

- Why was the development of this telegraph so important?
- Have you experienced Morse code before? What does it sound or look like?

**Synthesize:** What does this object tell us about the era in which it was created, or the American experience as a whole? How would you describe the social, economic, or political climate of America during this time? What connections can you make between this object and other things that you have seen, read, or experienced?

**Analyze:** Address the following era-specific questions:

- How did the industrial revolution, increasing immigration, the rapid expansion of slavery, and the westward movement change the lives of Americans and lead toward regional tensions?