



Activity Sheet: Morse Code

Before someone invented how to send your voice over the air waves, radio communications used "Morse Code". By pressing a key hooked up to an electromagnet, a series of short and long "beeps" can be sent long distances through high frequency radio signals. Samuel Morse made up a code that gave each letter of the alphabet a different combination of short and long "beeps". Using the code, a message can be "tapped" out on the key. Below is the Morse Code invented by Samuel Morse.

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 _ _ ••

Can you "decipher" (figure out) the secret message?

• _ _ _ _ _ _ _ •• _
 • _ • _ • •
 ••• _ • • _ • _ • _ _
 _ • _ • • _ •• • ••• _ • • _ •

Try writing your name in Morse Code. After you write it out below, "tap" out your name on a Morse Code key. There is one at the "radio room" display in the hangar at the Bushplane Museum.

"The beauty of Morse Code is its universal adaptability. You don't need a telegraph key to use it. Morse Code can be sent by whistles, buzzers, flags, even by alternating clenched and opened fists. At night, you can "speak Morse" with anything from a lighthouse beacon to a Bic lighter. Prisoners have used Morse Code to communicate between cells, rapping on their bars or water pipes." (Arthur Black)
 Can you think of any other ways to Send Morse Code?