

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

COMMUNICATION: GETTING THE MESSAGE!



INTRODUCTION

Communication - it's a big word that means giving information to another person.

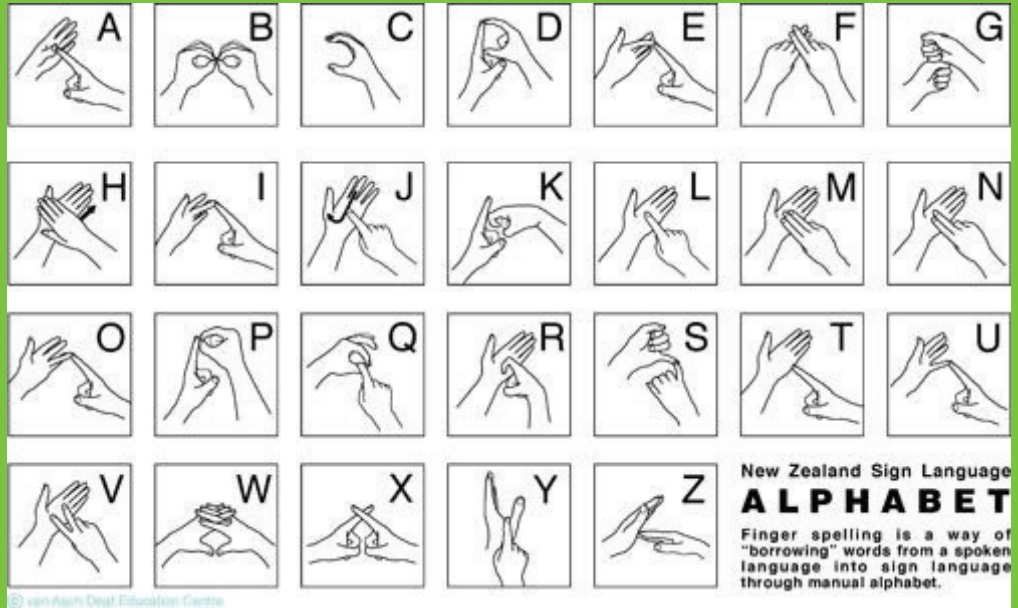
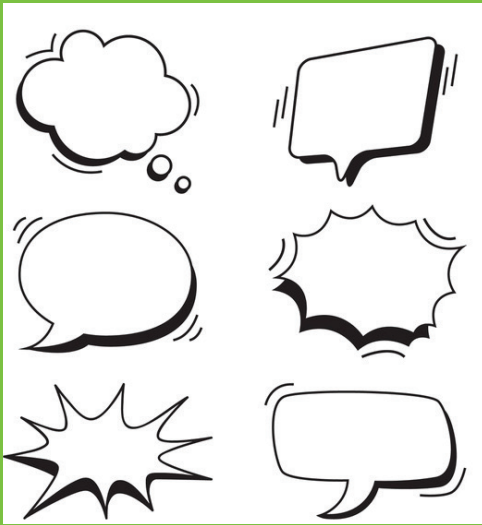
We do this through gesturing (using our hands/face), talking, shouting, phoning, radioing, emailing, or using signs.

Sometimes we let people know how we feel just by the look on our face - sad, happy, excited, scared, grumpy - lots of different expressions. If we are talking to someone through messenger, or any of the apps that are around today, it's easy for people to see how we feel as well as hearing our words.

But what if there was no picture to look at? Our words would have to be very clear to get our message across. It's like playing Whispers - the message at the beginning isn't always what comes out at the end! But what if there was no picture and no sound? Uh oh! How do we get our message through then?

And what if our message is TOP SECRET and no one else is able to understand it except you?

Over the next few activities we are going to look at ways people got their messages to other people in tricky situations. Some very clever ideas come up - let's see if you can invent some that are just as clever!



ACTIVITY 1: HOW WE NORMALLY COMMUNICATE

- speaking
- phone call
- sign language
- texting
- writing a letter/message
- email

These are ways that most of us talk to other people. Speaking is the one we use the most because it is quick, easy, doesn't need any equipment, and we get information back quickly. The same happens with a phone call - it is easy to ask and answer questions, as well as just have a chat and catch up on family and friends news.

Sign language is used by people who can't hear - it means they are able to talk to other people using their hands and their face to get their message across. Texting is also very helpful for members of the deaf community and it means that hearing people can still communicate. We also use emoji's to talk too.

We used to hand write letters to people but nowadays, we tend to send an email. It is cheaper (no postage to pay) and much quicker, and you have the chance to read the information in your own time.

- 1a** Draw three squares. Draw you and a friend having a conversation using speech bubbles for the words.
- 1b** See if you can watch the Emoji Movie. Write a short message just using emoji's.
- 1c** Write a short email to your teacher. Tell them about your weekend and what you are looking forward to next week. (See if you can add some pictures!)
- 1d** Introduce yourself using New Zealand sign language.

Phonetic Alphabet

A - alpha	N - november
B - bravo	O - oscar
C - charlie	P - papa
D - delta	Q - quebec
E - echo	R - romeo
F - foxtrot	S - sierra
G - golf	T - tango
H - hotel	U - uniform
I - india	V - victor
J - juliet	W - whisky
K - kilo	X - xray
L - lima	Y - yankee
M - mike	Z - zulu

CL Print Solutions

ACTIVITY 2: KEEPING SECRETS

At certain times, it is very important for messages to get to people in secret. War is often a time that this is very, very important.

Groups of soldiers need to be moved in secret. Air force planes need to be sent to certain places at certain times. Ships need to be in the right place too. Two ways of sending messages in code quickly were the Phonetic Alphabet and Morse Code.

See if you can work out this word:
lima uniform november charlie hotel
tango india mike echo.
Did you get it?

What about this one? It is written in Morse Code which is a lot of dots and dashes. A dot is dit and a dash is dah. Let's try.

dit dit dit dit / dah dah dah/dah dah/ dit/
dah/dit dit/dah dah/dit

Did you get that one? It is some people's favourite time of the day!

2a Using the phonetic alphabet, write a short message. See if your teacher or classmates can work it out.

2b Now try another one using Morse Code. You can either write it OR you could tap it out slowly and your friend could write it down. Have a go!

2c Have a go at making your own code system. Numbers and letters are usually used.

International Morse Code

1. The length of a dot is one unit.
2. A dash is three units.
3. The space between parts of the same letter is one unit.
4. The space between letters is three units.
5. The space between words is seven units.

A ● ■■	U ● ● ■■
B ■■ ● ● ●	V ● ● ● ■■
C ■■ ● ■■ ●	W ● ■■ ■■
D ■■ ● ●	X ■■ ● ● ■■
E ●	Y ■■ ● ■■ ■■
F ● ● ■■ ●	Z ■■ ■■ ● ●
G ■■ ■■ ●	
H ● ● ● ●	
I ● ●	
J ● ■■ ■■ ■■	
K ■■ ● ■■	
L ● ■■ ● ●	
M ■■ ■■	
N ■■ ●	
O ■■ ■■ ■■	
P ● ■■ ■■ ●	
Q ■■ ■■ ● ■■	
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	1 ● ■■ ■■ ■■ ■■
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	6 ■■ ● ● ● ●
	7 ■■ ■■ ● ● ●
	8 ■■ ■■ ■■ ● ●
	9 ■■ ■■ ■■ ■■ ●
	0 ■■ ■■ ■■ ■■ ■■

ACTIVITY 3: MORE SECRET STUFF

In Ancient Egypt the language was all in pictures. These were called Hieroglyphics but for a long time scientists could not work out what they meant. They needed a key to unlock the code. In 1799 a special stone was discovered - the Rosetta Stone - and it was like a dictionary that unlocked the code to the ancient Egyptian writing. It was very exciting because it meant we could finally understand the people from hundreds of years ago.

People have been finding ways to send secret messages for many years. One of the strangest was through knitting! There was a special code of stitches and the lady who knitted was able to pass on troop movements during the war so the Allied soldiers knew what was happening each day.

The sun was used to send messages using a HELIOGRAPH. It used the dots and dashes of Morse code so that messages could be sent over long distances.

3a Using two small mirrors or other shiny surfaces, send a message to a buddy.

3b Let's get a bit scientific. Find out how to make invisible ink! Use it to write a short message to your friend or teacher.

3c What about spies? Tell what you know...



How do lemons help us communicate in secret?

ACTIVITY 4: UNUSUAL WAYS OF COMMUNICATING.

In some places in the world the countryside is very steep and there are lots of deep ravines so getting to the neighbour can be very tricky. There are some villages who have developed a language of whistles - and they can talk to each other over almost three kilometres!

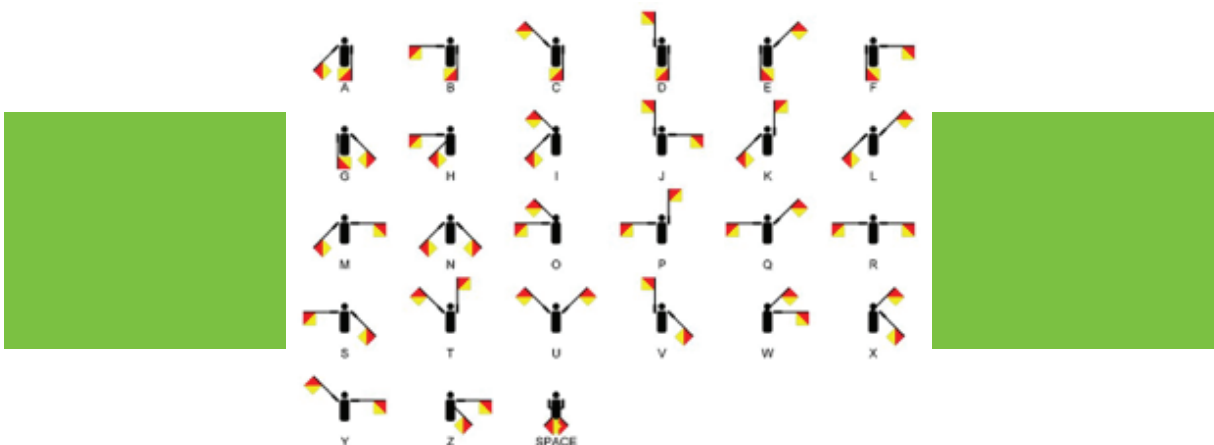
Watch this video clip (link is also on the last page): https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=300&v=P0aoguO_tvI&feature=emb_title

There are several countries that use this system - Spain and Turkey are just two.
We have some whistle codes here in New Zealand. What is a job in New Zealand where whistling is really important?

Another way of sending messages is using flags - this is called Semaphore. It is a code that is recognised all over the world.

Look at the semaphore alphabet - practise making the letters

- 4a** With a buddy, send a word in semaphore. They send one back. Did you both get them right?
- 4b** Talk to someone who farms sheep and uses dogs. Ask them what the different instructions sound like. Record the answers.
- 4c** Try out whistling yourself - whistle a tune, an instruction, or even a word.



BEYOND THE WORKSHEET

People have been finding ways to send messages over long distances for hundreds of years. We have looked at some ways of sending messages.

Check out:

- Smoke signals
- Drums
- Carrier pigeons
- Enigma code
- Colours
- Beacon fires

Have fun and don't forget to share your exciting ideas.

