

Student Activity

The Fog Signal Blows

On December 20, 1899, the U. S. Lighthouse Service installed two, ten-inch steam whistles that stood 37 feet above the water level. They were powered by steam from boilers fueled by wood and coal. It took nearly 55 minutes before the boilers were ready and the whistle could blow. The signal was a 3 second blast, 12 seconds of silence, a 6 second blast followed by 24 seconds of silence. Today, some fog signals have been replaced with radio beacons and emit a signal of dots and dashes.

Can you crack the code?

International Morse Code was used a way of communication from ship to ship or ship to shore. The code is made up of patterns of dots and dashes that correspond to specific letters.

Using the code below, try and crack the code at the bottom of the page.

A	● —	N	— ●
B	— ● ● ●	O	— — —
C	— ● — ●	P	● — — ●
D	— ● ●	Q	— — ● —
E	●	R	● — ●
F	● ● — ●	S	● ● ●
G	— — ●	T	—
H	● ● ● ●	U	● ● —
I	● ●	V	● ● ● —
J	● — — —	W	● — —
K	— ● —	X	— ● ● —
L	● — ● ●	Y	— ● — —
M	— —	Z	— — ● ●

— — ● / ● — ● / ● — / — ● / — ● ●

— / ● — ● / ● — / ● ● — / ● / ● — ● / ● ● ● / ●

● — ● ● / ● ● / — — ● / ● ● ● ● / — / ● ● ● ● / — — — / ● ● — / ● ● ● / ●