



History from Home

SIGNAL FLAG COMMUNICATION



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Signal Flags

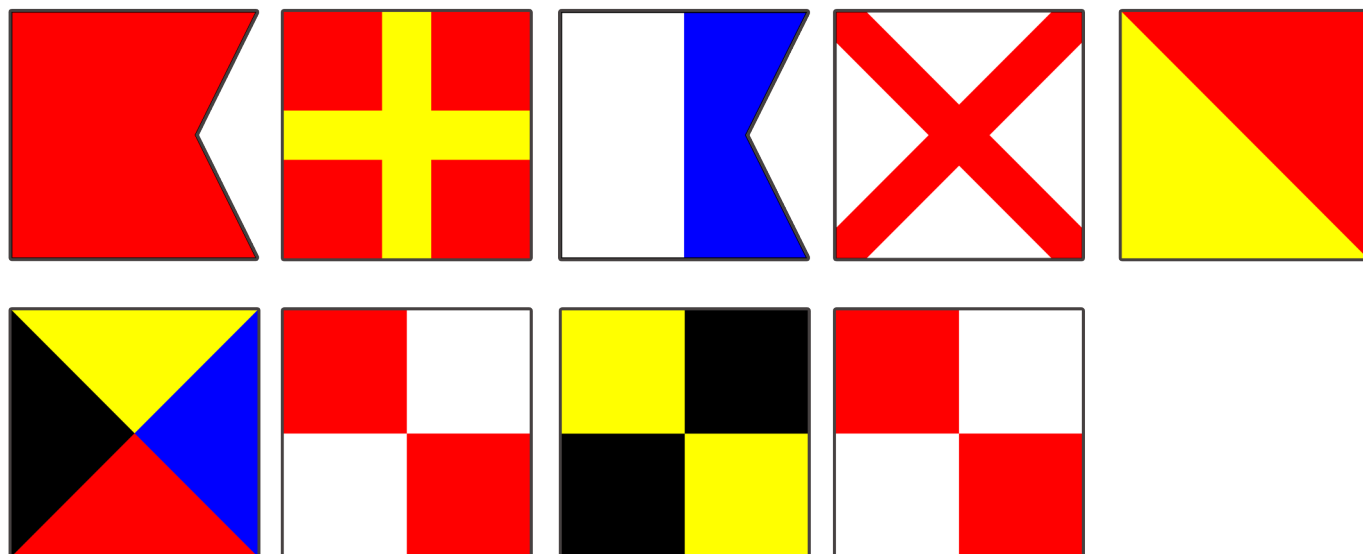
Before the inventions of the telegraph, telephone, and two-way radio, ships would communicate with a series of signal flags. Signal flags are a uniform set of easily identifiable nautical codes used to convey visual messages and signals between two ships or from ship to shore. They are based on an internationally recognized set of codes referred to as the International Code of Signals published in nine different languages.

Naval flag signaling can be traced back to medieval times but the first well documented case of communication by signal flags was that of the British fleet during the Napoleonic Wars.

Directions:

1. Use the Signal flag alphabet on the next page to help decode the message below. Use your own paper to write out a message to your friends and family!

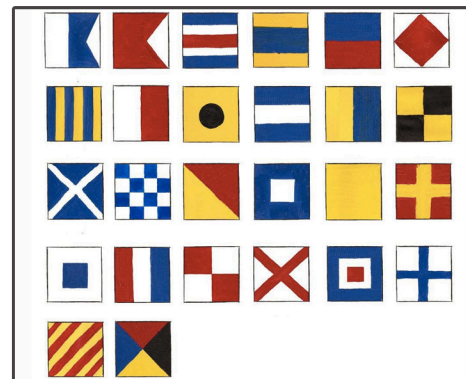
Signal Flag Message:



Signal Flag Message Answer:

Materials:

- Signal flag instruction and answer sheet
- Signal flag alphabet



Signal Flag Alphabet

