

3

Codes

Introducing codes

This page is just an outline of what you can talk about when introducing codes. You may need to elaborate on some points, add extra examples, or skip parts altogether. Every Mob is different. The introduction has to be adapted to suit the audience.

Hand out the code sheets after the talk. Usually it is helpful to have enlarged copies on a pin up board and go through part (if not all) of the decoding with them, prompting them to find the corresponding picture on the 'Master'.

Depending on the age group of the children, you can even get them to make up their own special code. Some Joeys can be incredibly imaginative, while others are just content to work through the simple picture code sheet.

What is a code?

A **CODE** is a bit like a **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**. There are many reasons why people use codes.

SECRETS: Sometimes, you might want to send a **SECRET MESSAGE** that you do not want anyone else to read. You can use **SYMBOLS**, **PICTURES**, or even **JUMBLE** up the letters of the alphabet. **SECRET AGENTS** often use **CODES**. To read the message, you need a special "**DE-CODER**" **SHEET**, which you use to match up the letters. Sometimes, people on ships want to 'talk' to each other but do not have a radio. Often they use a special **CODE** called **SEMAPHORE**. This uses **FLAGS** instead of letters. The first official **CODE OF SIGNALS** used **18 different flags** and contained **70,000 signals!** There are other ways to communicate with flags that are much simpler. When people on a ship are in trouble, they can hang the flag **UPSIDE DOWN**. This is the sign of **DISTRESS**. If you ever see a flag flying upside down, you know that the people are in trouble and need help.

SAMUEL MORSE invented a very famous code called the **MORSE CODE**. Instead of letters, it uses dots and dashes. People who know what each lot of dots and dashes stands for can translate the message. Before telephones, **MORSE CODE** was used to send messages across vast distances. People would 'tap' the message using a special machine and the person on the other end would listen and write down the message. **AT SEA**, sailors can use **LIGHTS** to send **MORSE CODE** by using long and short flashes to make up the letters. One signal used often by sailors is the **SOS**, which is the sign for **HELP! WE ARE IN TROUBLE!** – **SOS** stands for '**SAVE OUR SOULS**' and in **MORSE**, would look like this ... - - - ... (dot dot dot, dash dash dash, dot dot dot).



























BRILLE is a special **CODE** or **LANGUAGE** that was invented for **BLIND PEOPLE** in 1829 by a French teacher of the blind called **LOUIS BRILLE**. They cannot see symbols or lights, so **BRILLE** was invented to help them **READ** just like us. Because their eyes do not work, they have to **FEEL THE WORDS**. In **BRILLE**, sets of dots are arranged in patterns for each letter of the alphabet. These are **PUNCHED** onto paper with a special machine or typewriter so that when you **FEEL** the bumps with your **FINGERTIPS** you can **READ** the words.


































SIGN LANGUAGE is another language, which was invented especially for **DEAF PEOPLE** or people who **CANNOT SPEAK**. If you were deaf or unable to speak, it would be very difficult if you had to carry around **FLAGS** or **LIGHTS** just so that you could talk to people. With **SIGN LANGUAGE**, you can have a conversation by just using your hands.

There are many other types of codes that people use. See if you can find out about some others.



Can you crack the code – 4 ?

										
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	What does the message say?					

										
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____			
										
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
										
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____			_____	_____	
										
_____	_____	_____			_____	_____	_____	_____		



Can you crack the code – 5 ?

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						

What does the message say?

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-					
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-				



Answers to codes

Can you crack the code – 1 ?

JOEY SCOUTS ARE HELPFUL AND THEY ALWAYS DO THEIR BEST

Can you crack the code – 2 ?

JOEY SCOUTS ARE HELPFUL

Can you crack the code – 3 ?

I PROMISE TO DO MY BEST TO LOVE MY GOD AND BE HELPFUL

Can you crack the code – 4 ?

THERE IS A GOLD NUGGET HIDDEN IN THE HALL

Can you crack the code – 5 ?

A JOEY SCOUT CARES A JOEY SCOUT SHARES