

Semaphore

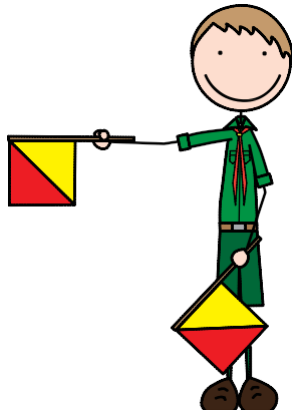
If you want to send a message over a long distance and you can still see the person you want to send a message to, you could use semaphore. Semaphore has different versions but one of the most common uses two flags. One flag is held in the right hand and the other in the left. Each flag can be held straight up, straight down, horizontally or at an angle. Both flags need to be correctly held to communicate a letter. Each letter has its own position of the flags.

You also have to remember that this is being seen by someone looking at you – the flag you hold in your right hand they will see as being on the left. Thinking how to hold the flags takes some thought and practice.

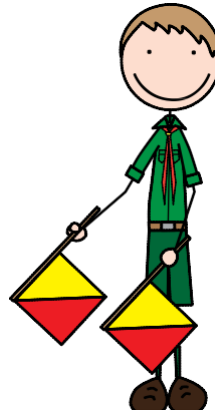




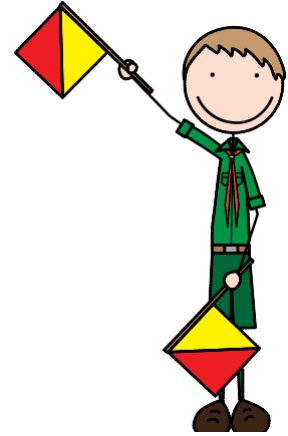
Straight up and down



Horizontally

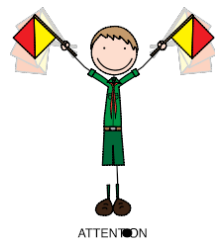
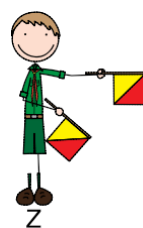
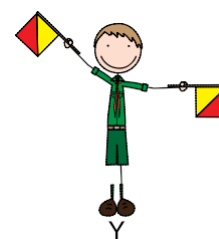
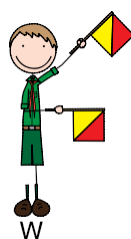
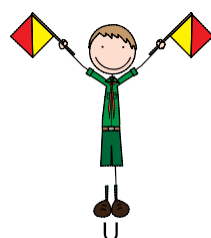
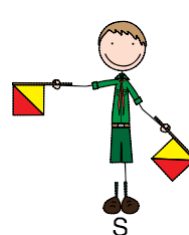
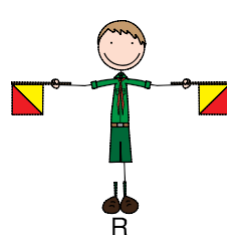
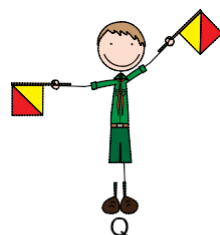
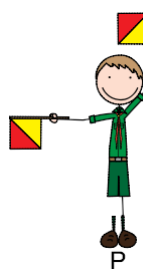
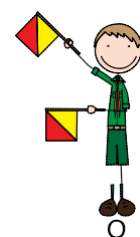
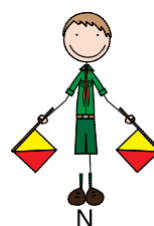
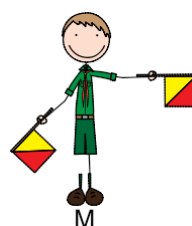
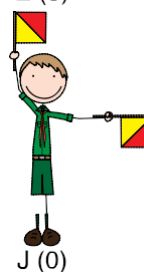
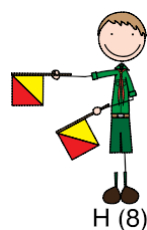
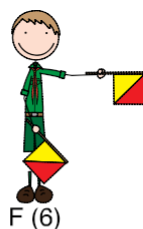
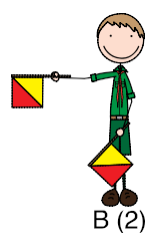
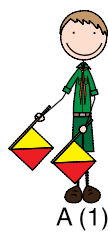


Angled



Angled

Semaphore alphabet





Try sending a message from one side of the room to the other (without talking!) use page 2 of this sheet to help you. Start with something simple such as someone's name. Then let the other half of your team send a word back.

Now think about this as a means of communication over, say, 500m.

- What is good about it?

- What are the problems that you might be able to get over with practice?

- What are the problems you could never get over using this method?

- How good would it be at communicating results on a Sports Day from the finishing line to the recording desk?
