



Morse Code Secret Message (Elementary)

Description: Students will use a Morse Code cypher to decode and encode messages.

Background Information:

The invention of the telegraph was a significant advancement in communication technology. It increased the speed at which messages could be transmitted across vast distances. The completion of a transcontinental telegraph line in 1861 made the Pony Express obsolete after just 18 months of operation. A telegraph sends communication by making and breaking an electrical connection. It sends electrical current pulses along a wire using Morse Code encoding.

Activity Description:

Morse Code is a telecommunication system used to send sequences of dashes and dots that represent letters of the alphabet. Use the cypher below to decode a the received telegraph. Then, use the cypher to encode your own telegraph message.

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	— • —	1	• — — — —
L	• — • •	2	• • — — —
M	— —	3	• • • — —
N	— •	4	• • • • —
O	— — —	5	• • • • •
P	• — — •	6	— • • • •
Q	— — • —	7	— — • • •
R	• — • •	8	— — — • •
S	• • •	9	— — — — •
T	—	0	— — — — —



Can you decode this secret message to answer this question?

How do telegraph operators apologize?



Write your own message for a friend to decode.