MORSE CODE Teacher Guidance

Resource Summary

These activities are suitable for KS2—3 students. There is a short animation which demonstrates how to send and receive messages in Morse code, You can watch as a class or students can watch individually on tablets or phones. There are also activity sheets with short and long Morse code messages.

Watch the Morse Code Animation

You may wish to pause it and discuss elements. It could be useful to draw comparisons between the morse code binary tree and classification trees in science, family trees and probability trees.

You can find the animation by clicking on the link above, scanning the QR code or using the in the web address below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGt9eHCY7ws

Key Questions:

Which letters have the shortest patterns of dots and dashes, why do you think that is? (E &T – because they are most frequent)

Why were messages enciphered in World War Two? (Morse code isn't a secret code and anyone can listen in to the radio message).

Activities

There are two worksheets with messages in Morse Code for students to translate.

One has a long paragraph of Morse code (p.2) one has some short words linked to WW2 (p.3). Print off the sheet you think is most appropriate for your students.

Pages 4—6 can be printed single sided and cut into cards for students to practice sending Morse code messages using a torch or buzzer.

Answers to the Short Morse Code Messages:

1	N A V Y
2	T A N K
3	P L A N E
4	R A D I O
5	O C E A N
6	B L I T Z
7	I N V A D E
8	D E F E N D
9	T A R G E T
10	A I R R A I D

Answer to the Long Morse Code Message:

"In World War Two messages were sent over the radio by Morse Code. Britain intercepted enemy morse code messages at Y stations. Intercepted messages were sent to Bletchley Park to be deciphered. Information from deciphered message helped to produce intelligence about our enemies"

Possible extension activities for students:

- Write your own message in Morse code and swap with a partner.

- Create a circuit using a bulb/buzzer and a switch to send Morse code messages (you can use the cards from p. 4-6).

- Write a computer programme to convert text to Morse code (or Morse code to text) in python or scratch.

- Learn about the people who listened to Morse code messages at Y-Stations during World War 2 from Bletchley Park Roll of Honour.

- Investigate which musical instruments can be used to produce short and long sounds to send Morse code