



Author: Sara Gillingham

Illustrator: Sara Gillingham
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of Pages: 120

AR: Not AR
RL: 4.8

Curriculum Connections: Graphic Arts, Social Studies—History, Foreign Language, U.S. History, Creative Writing

Best lends itself for instruction of: Close reading, finding information, codes, languages

A stunning visual reference that introduces readers to nautical codes from A to Z. Each nautical signal flag is detailed in a two page spread that explains the phonetic alphabet word, the semaphore positions, the Morse code sound and light signals, and a short description of a boat or ship that might make use of the signal. This book is full of information yet never feels overwhelming.

Text Features:

Colorful illustrations, introduction, bold vocabulary, glossary, hands-on activities, additional information

Common Core Standards

Primary:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.5](#)

Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.7](#)

Explain how specific images (e.g. diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1](#)

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

Intermediate:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2](#)

Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1.](#)

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5](#)

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

Lesson Ideas

Text Set Options

Primary:

Using Morse Code have students write their name or messages.

Have students write words for bulletin board headings using the nautical flag alphabet.

Morse Code Machine

<http://boyslife.org/games/online-games/575/morse-code-machine/>

Using the book *Flags of the World* as an example, have students produce their own flag. Have them come up with the meaning behind their flag.

Decorating with Flags

<http://www.gettysburgflag.com/blog/flag-information/dressing-ships/>

Phonetic alphabet

http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/NATO_phonetic_alphabet

Using orthography, making your own alphabet, have students create their own alphabet using letters or symbols. Have them write their name using the alphabet.

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie: The Military Alphabet, by Chris Demarest
McElderry Books 2005

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The Ballad of Valentine, by Alison Jackson, 2002.

T is for Tugboat: Navigating the Seas from A to Z
Chronicle Books 2008

AR 3.8

Flags of the World, by Sylvie Bednar
Abrams Books for Young Readers 2009

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Alpha, by Isabelle Arsenault
Candlewick Press 2015

IL 3-6

Sail Away, by Donald Crews
Harper Trophy 1995

AR 1.3

Intermediate:

Have students go on a Morse code scavenger hunt and answer questions about the telegraph and Morse code. The answers to the questions can be hidden around the classroom in Morse code. Students need to translate the code in order to find the correct answers.

History of Signaling at Sea

<http://www.seaflags.us/signals/Signals.html>

Morse Code Messaging

https://www.education.com/activity/article/Morse_Code/

Using the book *Flags of the World* as an example, have students produce their own flag. Have them come up with the meaning behind their flag. What would the phonetic alphabet symbol, the Morse code sound, or the semaphore be for their flag?

Phonetic alphabet

http://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/NATO_phonetic_alphabet

Using orthography, making your own alphabet, have students create their own alphabet using letters or symbols. Have them write their name using the alphabet.

Research the history of code use.

The History of the Telephone, by Barbara Somervill
Child's World 2005

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Top Secret: A handbook of codes, ciphers, and secret writing by Paul Janeczko
Candlewick Press 2004

AR 7.3

The Book of Languages: Talk Your Way Around the World, by Mick Webb, 2015.
Flags of the World, by Sylvie Bednar
Owlkids Books 2015

RL 6.7

You Wouldn't Want to Sail with Christopher Columbus!: Uncharted waters you'd rather not cross, by Fiona Macdonald
Franklin Watts 2014

AR 4.4

The Boxcar Children Guide to Adventure: a how-to for mystery solving, make-it-yourself projects, and more
Albert Whitman & Company 2014

RL 6.8

Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
Square Fish, Christy Ottaviano Books 2016

AR 5.5