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

**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

**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

### 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**
- 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/](http://www.gettysburgflag.com/blog/flag-information/dressing-ships/)
- **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.

### 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](http://www.seaflags.us/signals/Signals.html)
- **Morse Code Messaging**
  - [https://www.education.com/activity/article/Morse_Code/](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**
- 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.

## Text Set Options

### Primary:

- Alpha, Bravo, Charlie: The Military Alphabet, by Chris Demarest
  - McElderry Books
  - 2005
  - AR 3.7
- 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
  - RL 8.1
- **Alpha, by Isabelle Arsenault**
  - Candlewick Press
  - 2015
  - IL 3-6
- **Sail Away**, by Donald Crews
  - Harper Trophy
  - 1995
  - AR 1.3

### Intermediate:

- The History of the Telephone, by Barbara Somervill
  - Child’s World
  - 2005
  - AR 5.5
- **Top Secret: A handbook of codes, ciphers, and secret writing** by Paul Janeczko
  - Candlewick Press
  - 2004
  - AR 7.3
- **Flags of the World**, by Sylvie Bednar
  - Owkids 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