

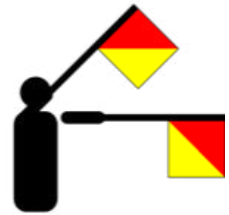
8 From Flags to Fiber Optics: The Evolution of Naval Communications

In this activity, you will learn about the evolution of naval communication technologies, from visual signaling with flags to modern secure telecommunications.

Introduction to Naval Communications:

The International maritime signal flag system uses brightly colored flags, each representing a letter of the alphabet or a specific meaning. Ships raise these flags in different combinations to send messages across distances. This visual system is still used today alongside advanced radio, satellite, and encrypted communications to ensure messages can be sent even if modern equipment fails.

Today, the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) uses **advanced technologies** for secure communication, including satellite communications, encrypted radios, and fiber optics. These technologies allow for real-time communication over vast distances, regardless of conditions, providing secure and reliable links between ships and command centers.



Activity:

1. Using the International maritime signal flag chart provided, spell the following words by drawing or arranging the correct flags:

- *Navy*
- *Ship*
- *Bridge*
- *Rescue*

2. Now, think of your own short message (maximum 5 letters) that you'd like to send. Draw the correct International flags for each letter and have a classmate decode your message!