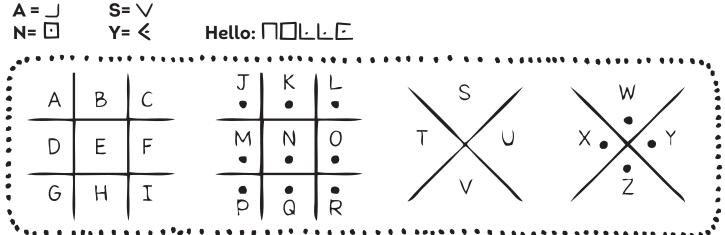# Big Local Gateshead

SECRET CIPHER

Morse Code

People have been using morse code to send messages for nearly 200 years! Because it was very fast to send an electrical signal, information could cross hundreds of miles in a few seconds, but it was limited to just using dots and dashes.

A ·—	J ·———	Q ——·—	Y —·——				
B —···	J ·———	R ·—·	Z ——··				
C —·—·	K —·—	S ···	1 ·————				
D —··	L ·—··	T —	2 ··———				
E ·	M ——	U ··—	3 ···——	7 ——···			
F ··—·	N —·	V ···—	4 ····—	8 ———··			
G ——·	O ———	W ·——	5 ·····	9 ————·			
H ····	P ·——·	X —··—	6 —····	0 —————			

Pigpen Cipher

Pigpen is even older than morse, theres eveidence to suggest the Kinights Templar were using it to pass secret messages way back in 1100 AD! It works just like morse code in that we substitute a letter for a symbol, but these ones are much easier to write by hand. For example:

A = ⌋   S= ∨
N= ▣   Y= ≪   Hello: ⌐⊡⌊·⌊·⌐

A	B	C	J·	K·	L·	S
D	E	F	M·	N·	O·	T U
G	H	I	P·	Q·	R·	V

W·   X·   ·Y   ·Z

Activity

Try using one or both of the ciphers above to write secret messages to someone at home and get them to write back. You could start with these:
- The red bird flies at midnight
- The slippery moose is loose in the goose house
- What is that skippy there is a boy stuck down a well?

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