**Setting up your telegraph**

Step 1: Attach battery to blue power connector  
Step 2: Attach pink button to blue power connector  
Step 3: Attach orange wire  
Step 4: Attach green light  
Step 5: Make sure the switch on the blue power connector is switched to “on”  
Step 6: Press the button. If the light comes on, you’ve done it right!

**What is a telegraph?**

In the days before cell phones and computers, telegraphs were used to send messages instantly over long distances. They were used by ship communications officers, banks, governments, and the military to send important messages that couldn’t wait for the mail.

Developed in the 1830s by Samuel Morse, the telegraph communicates electrical signals over a wire between two stations. Morse also developed a code—named after him—that used dots and dashes to represent letters of the English language. The person operating the telegraph would translate the code into English, write down the message, and make sure it was delivered to the right person. Afterwards, he would tap out a response to the message. Clients were charged by the character, so messages were often short and lacked unnecessary words.

**ACTIVITY**

**Tap out these messages**

SOS

Just arrived in Panama Sunny and hot All is well

=Just docked in Halifax Lovely trip Will write soon=

Love Pearle

Mrs H MacDonald

22

High Street, Manchester, England

Dear Mum Should be home on four May See you soon

Arriving New York 1500

Just saw Michael sends love from Georgetown

Now that you’ve mastered these messages, try making up your own and sending them to a friend!

