



NANTUCKET
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ISLAND
EXPLORERS

Printable Activities Book 11

Make Your Own Signal Flags

About Signal Flags



Signal flags are an international language for boats and sailors at sea. Each flag represents a letter of the alphabet AND acts as a special message. These were standardized by the British in 1857 to flags help sailors communicate from their boats and navigate safely at sea. Signal flags are still used by sailors today.

Each flag signifies one letter and also has a specific meaning. Can you decode the flags that represent your initials? Use the signal flag alphabet sheets to find out what messages your initials convey.

How to Make Your Own Signal Flag



1. **Select the flags that represent the first letter of your first, middle, and last names. Print those pages only and cut out.**
2. **Punch two holes in the upper corners of each signal flag.**
3. **Thread some string or rope through the holes in each flag, keeping your initials in order. Tie a loop at each end of the rope.**
4. **Bind off the end of the rope with a piece of colored tape.**

A

Alfa



Diver down. Keep well clear at slow speed

B

Bravo

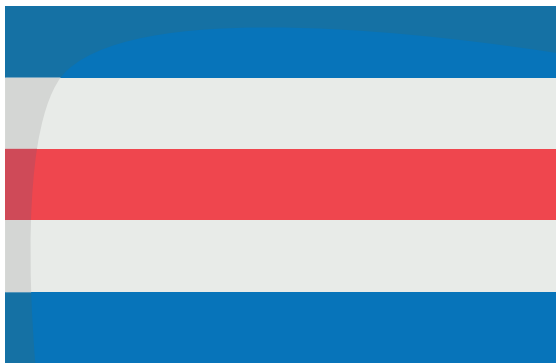


Taking in, discharging or carrying dangerous goods



C

Charlie



Yes (Affirmative)

D

Delta



Keep clear. I am manoeuvring with difficulty

E

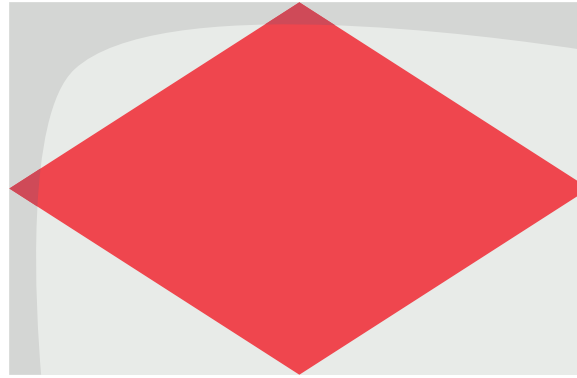
Echo



I am altering my course to Starboard

F

Foxtrot



I am disabled.
Communicate with me



G

Golf



I require a pilot

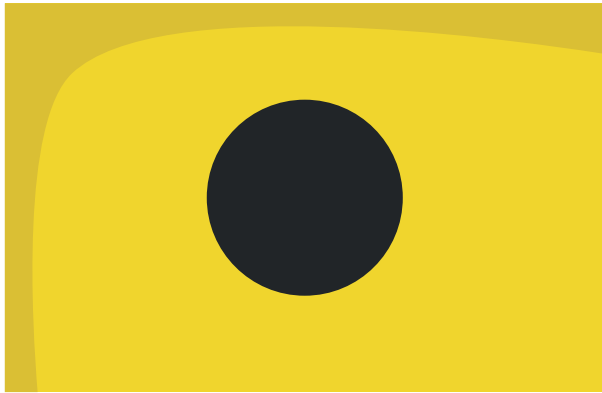
H

Hotel



I have a pilot onboard

I India



Altering my course to Port

J Juliet



I am on fire. Dangerous cargo, keep well clear

K Kilo



I wish to communicate with you

L Lima



You should stop your vessel instantly



M

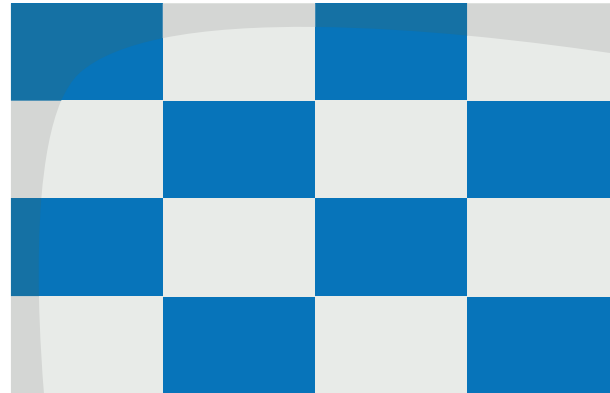
Mike



My vessel is stopped

N

November



No (Negative)



O

Oscar



Man overboard

P

Papa



Recall. All persons to repair onboard. Vessel about to sail

Q

Quebec



Vessel is healthy. Request free pratique

R

Romeo



No signal



S

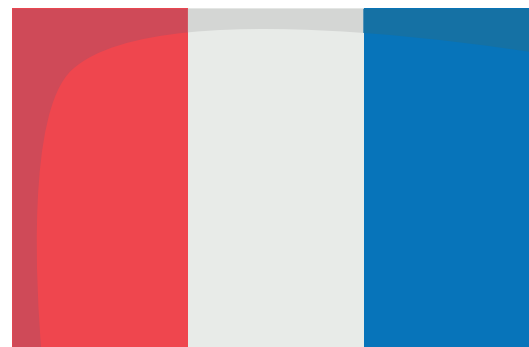
Sierra



My engines are going full speed astern

T

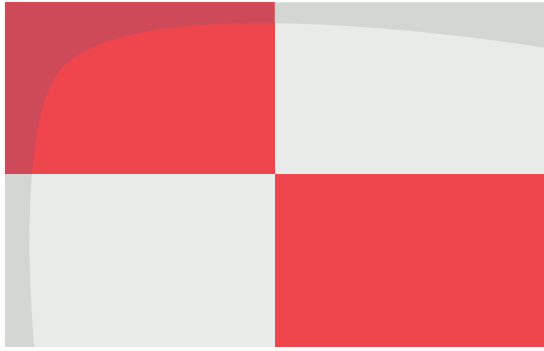
Tango



Keep clear of me. I am engaged in pair trawling

U

Uniform



You are running
into danger

V

Victor

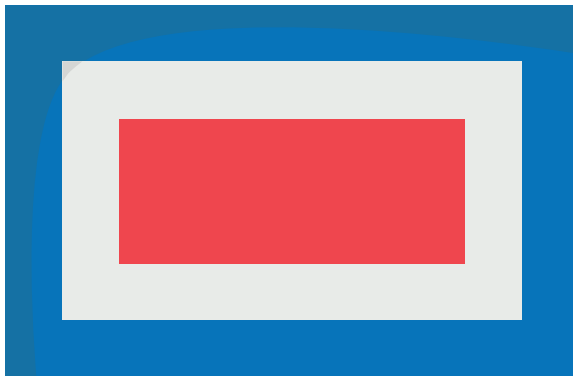


I require assistance



W

Whiskey



I require medical assistance

X

X-ray



Stop carrying your intentions
& watch for my signals

Y

Yankee



I am dragging my anchor

Z

Zulu



I require a tug

