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Electric Messages: Then and Now

[Download Full Lesson Plan](#)
(Full teacher resource documents are included)

Lesson Focus
Lesson focuses on exploring electric message systems, from light signals using International Morse Code to text messaging. Students construct a simple telegraph using a battery, wires, a switch, and bulb, and explore the impact of communications on society.



Lesson Synopsis
The Electric Messages: Then and Now activity explores electronic communication, the Morse Code system, and advances all the way through text messaging. Students build a simple circuit, send messages to one another, and explore the impact of electrical communications on society.

Age Levels: 8-14

Objectives

- Learn about electrical based communications.
- Learn about the Morse Code system.
- Learn about wiring, switches, and simple circuits.
- Learn about teamwork and problem solving.
- Learn about the history of communication and its impact on world events.

Anticipated Learner Outcomes
As a result of this activity, students should develop an understanding of:

- electrical communications
- audio and visual applications of International Morse Code
- electrical wiring, simple switches
- teamwork

Lesson Activities

Students learn about how to send Morse Code through electrical simple switches which they construct from batteries, wires, and a bulb. They explore the impact of electrical communications on society and therefore the value that engineers add to our world.

Resources/Materials

- Teacher Resource Documents (attached)
- Student Resource Sheet (attached)
- Student Worksheet (attached)

Alignment to Curriculum Frameworks

Curriculum alignment sheet is included in [PDE](#).

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