



KS2

Literacy Booster

Theme of the Week – Keeping In Touch



CH (Chain Home) Receiver Room
Norman Edward Hoad
© the artist's estate

Activity 1 – Think

Look at the painting above.

We keep in touch in lots of different ways. Make a list of the different ways people are keeping in touch in the picture.

Consider:

What might the woman on the far left be doing?

What equipment does the person at the front of the painting have?

Do you recognise any of the equipment that we use today? It might not look the same now as in the past.



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Activity 2 - Explore

Communicating over the radio or telephone can be challenging. It is sometimes hard to tell different letters apart. Over an old crackly radio, 's' and 'f', or 'n' and 'm', sound very similar.

To make it easier to understand radio communications, phonetic alphabets were developed. These gave each letter a code word; e.g. A becomes 'Alpha', B becomes 'Bravo', and so on. These are used today by the military, police, and most places where radios are needed. Search for the phonetic alphabet online. Use this to write and then read out your full name.



Pixabay

When using a radio, there are simple words or phrases that have been created to make it easier to communicate. For example: saying 'over' at the end of a message means you have finished but would like a reply, 'Wilco' means you will follow the instructions given, 'Received' or 'Confirmed' can tell others that you got their message.

Come up with your own code words that you could use.



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Activity 2 - Continued

Another form of communication is Morse code. Before there were telephones and radio it wasn't possible to physically speak to other people at a distance. It was possible to send electrical signals as dots and dashes. A system was created to make an alphabet using this that became Morse code.

Why not research Morse code and try your hand at writing some Morse messages to your friends?



[Wikimedia Commons](#)



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Activity 3 - Create

Write a story on the theme of Keeping in Touch. Start the story using one of the opening lines below:

- It started as an ordinary day. I was sat at my desk when we received a message from...
- It had been three days since the internet had stopped working and...
- The letter dropped down on to the doormat. I picked it up and began to read, when suddenly...

You can write in the first or third person

Think about your characters

Consider your setting

Include different ways people can communicate

Make sure you have a beginning, middle and end.



Activity 4 - Do

Think of someone you haven't spoken to in a while or who you miss.

- How could you get in touch with them?
- Whether it's a phone call, an email or a text why not spend some time reaching out to people and keeping in touch.
- Why not set yourself a target to write to or call someone different each week?



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Well done!