



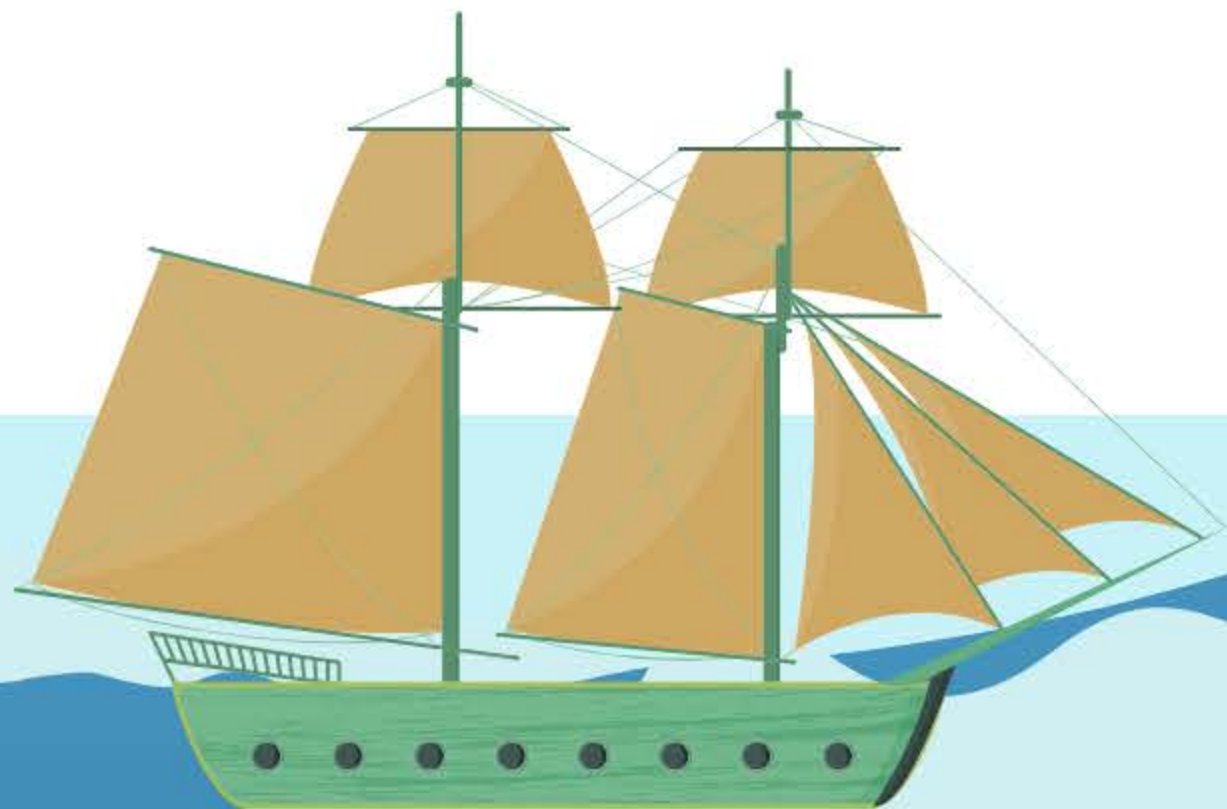
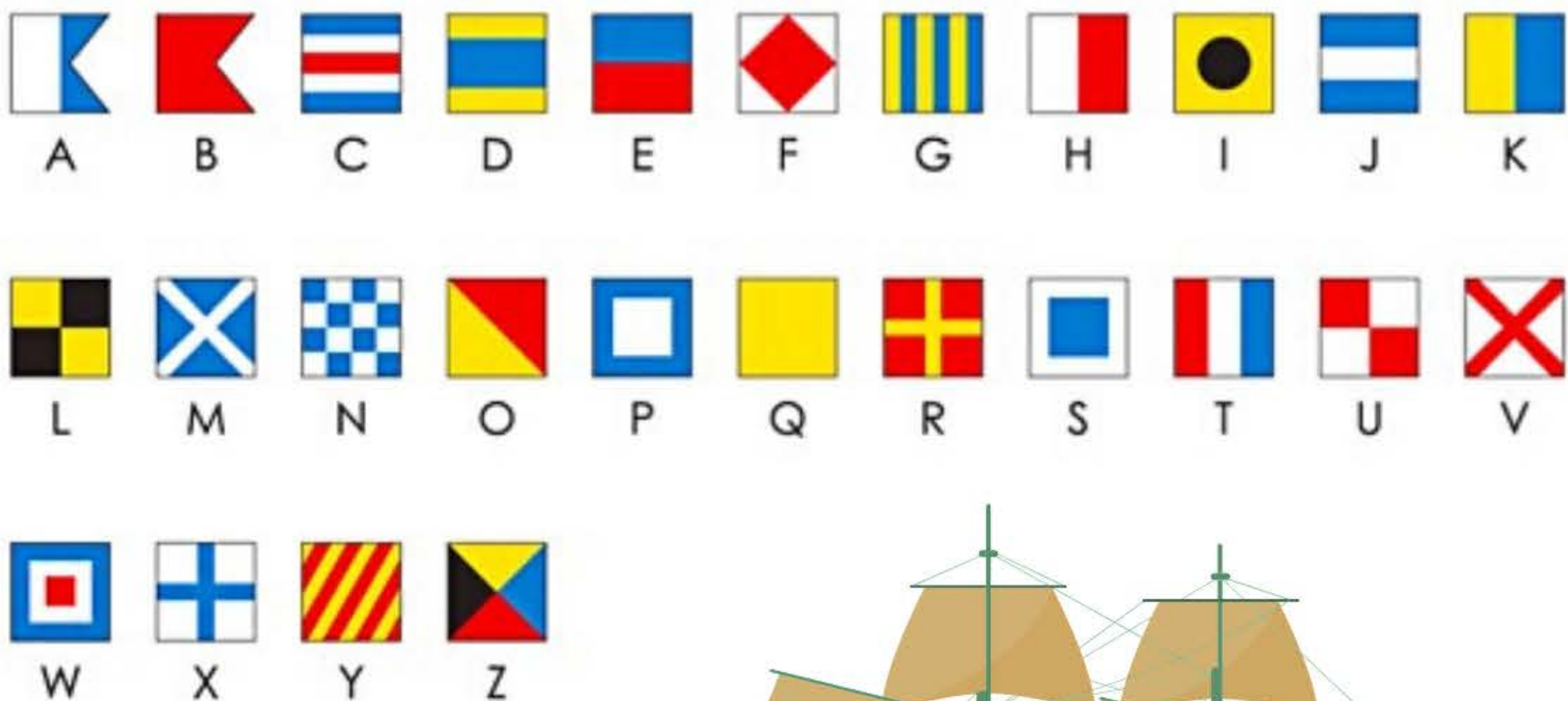
JUNIOR SAILOR

FUN WITH SIGNAL FLAGS

Before the use of radios on ships, flags and pennants were used to communicate at sea. Each letter and number was represented by a colorful flag. These are called **signal flags**!

The messages from signal flags could be seen and read across long distances. Certain combinations of two flags had specific meanings, which were the same in many languages, and could be understood by sailors from different nations.

Check out the Nautical Flag Alphabet below!



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Can you decode the following message using the flag alphabet above?

1. The sequence of flags for '1.' is: a blue pennant, a white flag with a red diamond, a red and white horizontal banded flag, a red and blue vertical banded flag, and a red flag with a yellow saltire.

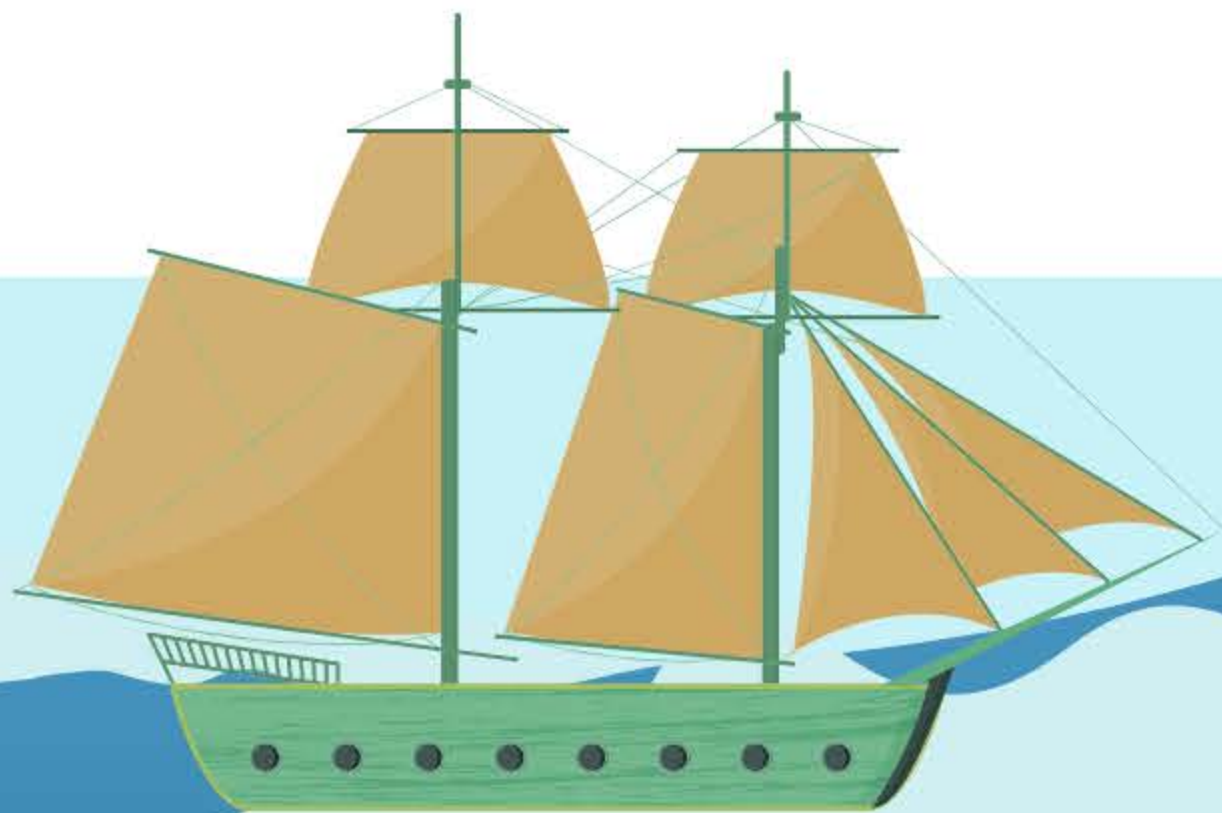
2. The sequence of flags for '2.' is: a red and white horizontal banded flag, a blue pennant, a white flag with a blue cross, a red and blue vertical banded flag, and a white flag with a blue square.

3. The sequence of flags for '3.' is: a blue pennant, a red and yellow diagonal banded flag, a red and blue vertical banded flag, a white flag with a blue square, a red and blue vertical banded flag, a blue pennant, and a red and white checkered flag.

4. The sequence of flags for '4.' is: a blue flag with a white square, a red and blue vertical banded flag, a blue pennant, a red and white checkered flag, a black and yellow checkered flag, a blue pennant, a red and white horizontal banded flag, a red and blue vertical banded flag, and a red flag with a yellow saltire.

5. The sequence of flags for '5.' is: a yellow and blue horizontal banded flag, a red and yellow diagonal banded flag, a red and yellow diagonal banded flag, a red and blue vertical banded flag, a red and blue vertical banded flag, a blue and white checkered flag, a red and white checkered flag, and a white flag with a red diamond.

Courtesy of U.S. Naval Undersea Museum



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