

# Make Semaphore Flags

Semaphore is a form of visual communication using square, hand-held flags. Sailors can use semaphore to communicate over distances, such as from one ship to another ship or from a ship to the shore. Semaphore flags are usually divided diagonally and coloured red and yellow to make them more visible. To communicate with semaphore, a flag is held in each hand and arms are then placed in specific positions to represent numbers or the letters of the alphabet.

Make your own flags following the directions below and then send a message to a friend using the semaphore alphabet diagrams that are also included in this activity. Make sure that your friend has a copy of the semaphore alphabet diagrams, or else they won't be able to understand your message.

## You will need:

- Semaphore Flag Template (supplied)
- Cardboard (cereal boxes work well)
- Large straws or sticks for the flag handles
- Crayons, paints or markers to colour the flags
- Glue
- Tape

## Directions:

- Print out two copies of the flag template
- Colour in both sections of each box using two different colours. **Tip:** *It's best to use 2 very different colours like red and yellow so that they will be seen from far away*
- Glue the flags to the card and cut to size
- Tape a straw or stick to each flag

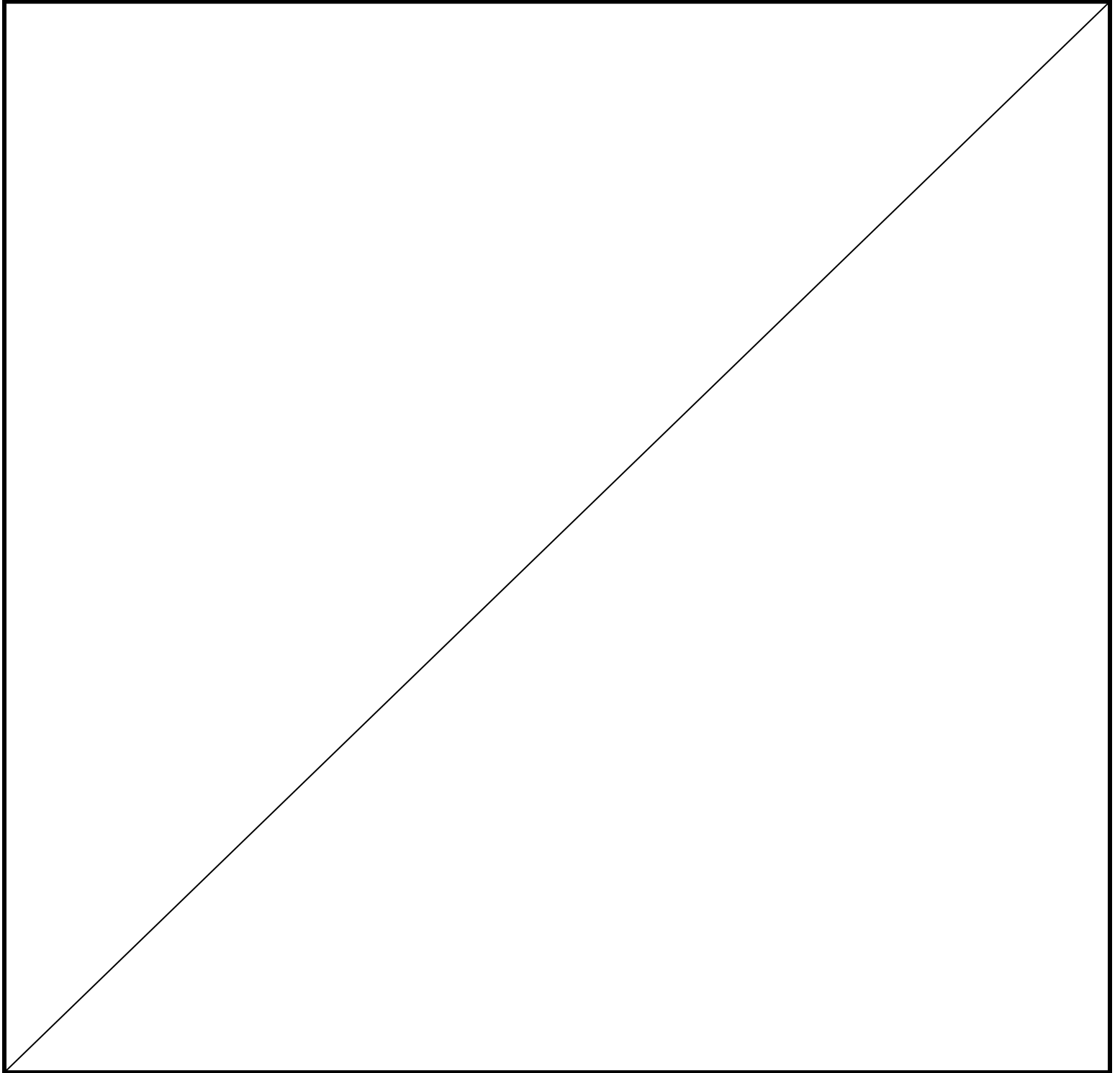
## How to send a message:

To send a message to a friend, write out what you would like to say on a piece of paper and then practice sending each letter that makes up your message using the illustrations provided (See Semaphore Flag Positions).

Practice sending the messages below. You can write or draw the positions to help you practice.

- Hello
- How are you?

## Template for Semaphore Flags



### Semaphore Flag Positions

Note: illustration found in 2010 on the Department of National Defence site.

