Morse code is a code used to transmit messages

It can be used to send messages quickly using sound over a radio or by using lights

It uses short and long dashes. These are called dots and dashes

Using sound the dot is a short sound and the dash is a long sound. Using lights, the dots are short flashes and the dashes are long flashes

Morse code was invented in the 19th century and is named after Samuel Morse, one of its inventors

It started to be used in the 1890s as a way of sending messages before voice could work over radio. Messages can be sent quicker and over longer distances, and the code was used by ships at sea. The Titanic sent a Morse message to try to get help when it was sinking

Morse is used today by ships to send messages using flashing lights

These messages are much harder for someone to intercept than a radio message would be



This is a really famous Morse code message
Find out what it says and what it is used for



Morse needs two people who know the code and a set of rules

- 1. a short flash (a dot) is 1 second
- 2. a long flash (a dash) is 3 seconds
- 3. the gap between flashes is 1 second
- 4. the gap between letters is 3 seconds
- 5. the gap between words is 7 seconds