# JAMBOREE on the AIR

## *Morse Code*

Originally, communication between distant people was only possible as far as the eye could see, or the ear could hear.   Smoke signals, flares, musical instruments or signal lamps could only be used so far.

In 1837, Samuel Morse invented the **telegraph** – an electrical device which allowed a sender, using a **key** like the one pictured at *right*, to send signals to an electromagnetic device at the other end, which either could be decoded directly by a **telegraph operator** or printed onto a paper tape to be decoded later.

With the invention of radio communications around 1895 (originally called the **wireless telegraph**) the same code invented by Morse (called, naturally enough, **Morse code**), with its series of short **dots** and long **dashes**, was used to send messages over the radio in the days before radio systems were capable of transmitting the human voice.

We still send and receive Morse code nowadays using the same kind of *key* that Samuel Morse invented.   Morse code can be easily understood even over a very noisy radio or computer connection, when voice is jumbled and can't be understood.

*Try to send the following* **(fill in the blanks first)*:***

*M Y   N A M E   I S* _____

*(fill in your first name)*

*I  A M* _____ *Y E A R S   O L D.*

*(fill in your age)*

*I  L I K E* _____.

*(fill in the name of the section you belong to, like Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts, Sparks, Brownies, Girl Guides, Pathfinders, or Rangers)*

**Now have your partner send their answers to <u>you</u>!**

### International Morse Code

1. A dash is equal to three dots.
2. The space between parts of the same letter is equal to one dot.
3. The space between two letters is equal to three dots.
4. The space between two words is equal to seven dots.

**It starts with Scouts.**
**Tout commence avec les Scouts.**

SCOUTS CANADA