**Lesson Topic**

 SIGNAL FLAGS

**Lesson Goal**

Students will gain an understanding of the use of signal flags.

State Standards

SL.7.2

SL.8.2

**Relation to USS Kidd**

Signal Flags were commonly used on the USS Kidd and on naval ships

**Objectives**

Students will use signal flags chart to identify common ship signals. 2. Students will create different signal flags and meanings on their own.

**Materials needed for lesson**

Copy of signal flags (http://www.marinewaypoints.com/learn/flags/flags.shtml) · Two flags you have made in advance. (Skull and crossbones, stop instantly) ·

Story books and picture books about ships and flags from the library ·

Markers/Crayons and construction paper

**Lesson**

Begin a discussion about communication between ships before radio was invented. What kinds of things might one ship wish to communicate to another ship? Have students come up with ways of communicating from ship to ship. Show them the flags you have made and ask them to “read” the message.

· Discuss why it is important to establish a symbolic language that all ships at sea recognize.

· Distribute the International Flags and Pennants chart.

· Explain that these are the symbols currently used by sea-faring vessels all over the world. Each flag has 2 meanings. The first is a letter of the alphabet, which when strung together, form the “call sign” of that ship. Show a picture of the USS Kidd flying its call sign and have the students interpret it. The signal flags are the ship’s call letters, NYKF. When the ship uses the radio, they identify themselves by their call letters. The letters are expressed as words. For instance, the Ron Brown’s call letters are WTEC, which is read as Whiskey, Tango, Echo, Charlie. This is so there is no confusion between the letters. A B can often sound like a D or a P.

· Give a few practice examples by calling out a group of 4 letters and have students respond as a whole group.

· Have students spell out their own name using the call letters. ·

Activity – make your name by copying the appropriate flags

· The second meaning of each flag is a message. Oscar means, “Man overboard”. Allow students time to look at the meanings and speculate on their uses.

· Activity – Students can send messages across the classroom without speaking.

**Assessments**

Groups properly interpret the other groups message.

