

## Digital writing

### Objective

Compile a message using only two discrete elements: black and white pawns.

### What do we need

Square boards with 8 rows and 8 columns, black and white pawns, paper strips on which there are indications of the message that should be communicated by the players, for ex.:

go to Rome

black dog

love

to talk

doing things

12 friends

attention: sentences and words that you want to communicate must consist of a maximum of 8 characters.

To build the board

### What do we need

A square board 25x25 cm (for ex made of plywood 4-5mm)

8 blue velcro strips: we use only the part with the hooks

8 20 cm strips of white velcro: we use only the soft part

8 20 cm strips of black velcro: we only use the soft part

stapler

### What to do

Staple the 8 blue strips on the wooden board.

The strips must be placed close and parallel to one another covering the central part of the board to form a square. The staples must be positioned perpendicularly to each strip so as to draw the 8 squares like in a chessboard.

Cut the black and white strips in 2 cm long pieces: you will obtain the pawns.

To play

### What to do

Each player picks a paper strip. The objective is to communicate the message to the others by placing the pawns on the chessboard. Obviously he mustn't show his paper strip to anyone.

Rules:

- the pawn must occupy one entire square, one is not allowed to cover only one part of it
- one must occupy all the squares, no square can remain uncovered

When finished each player shows his board and the other players try to guess the message.



# from telegraph to internet

## **Things to observe**

Some will have created a symbolic drawing, other will have used the characters of messages, others will have invented a kind of code. If the students know it, some might use a Morse code.

Discuss together the characteristics of each method, of their advantages disadvantages, limitations posed by such a small board.

When analysing the use of a code, be it a Morse or a personal code, it might be worth beginning to think about the ASCII code, which uses exactly 8 bit.

riga della scacchiera.

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