

National Mathematics Day Activity

Title of activity	Braille
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Each cipher and code activity has a suggested level: lower primary, upper primary or junior secondary. However, many of the activities can be enjoyed by students (and teachers!) of all ages.

For more information about this resource, please contact:



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Braille

[primary]

Braille is a form of writing that uses combinations of *raised* dots to make letters, words and numbers. Because the dots are raised, they can be felt when touched. Braille is used by people who are visually impaired, to read and write.

It was developed by Louis Braille (1809–1852) when he was 15 years old. He lost his sight at the age of four. He became a very good mathematician, scientist and organ player, although he is most famous for the Braille system.

The picture below was taken in a lift.



What do you notice about this picture? How many floors did the lift service?

The photo was taken by John Bament.

Braille is based on six dots, arranged in a pattern of two dots across and three dots down.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
u	v	x	y	z					w
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

Can you now see the connection between the Braille symbols and the lift buttons?

- What does this message say?



- How would this word look if it were written in Braille?

tactile

- Can you write your own message in Braille?
- In real life Braille letters have raised dots. Can you think of a way of producing raised dots for your message?
- Can you identify the patterns of the raised dots? Why is the letter 'w' by itself?
- How hard is it to read Braille with your fingers? Find a book or leaflet in Braille and try!
- See if you can find some Braille messages around your community.