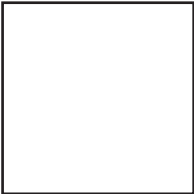




To:



Communication

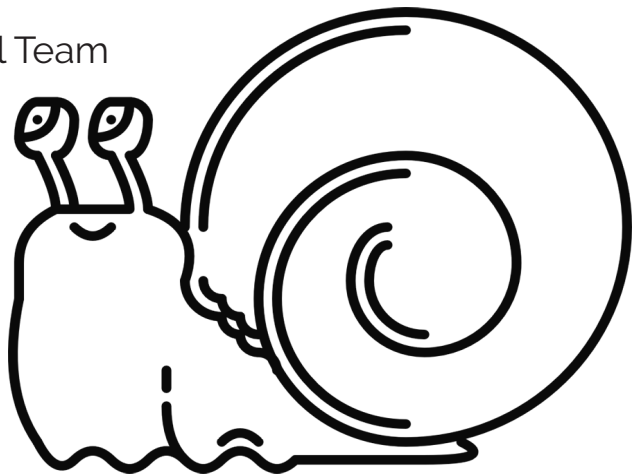
Communication is an integral part of being human! We've invented so many different ways to communicate with each other. This issue is part one of a two-part special on Communication!

To communicate with a person, you need to both listen and respond to their ideas. Good communication happens when both halves of a conversation understand. Communication with computers is a little different: we give a command and the program does its best to respond. But it's the same concept, we need to share our idea in a way that it can be understood. (Maybe that's why there are so many sci-fi movies where robots are not so different than us.)

Do you have thoughts on computers and communication? If you want to share them with us or send us any of your finished comics from this issue, please reach out! We love to hear from you! Submissions can be uploaded at

codeva.info/SubmitYourSnailMail

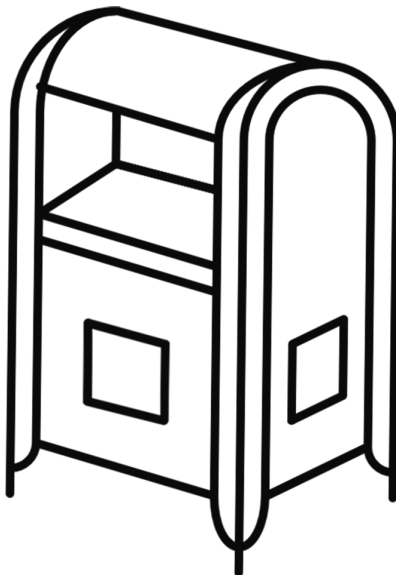
Best wishes,
The Snail Mail Team



USPS

The United States Postal Service is almost 250 years old, with Benjamin Franklin serving as the first Postmaster General in 1775. That's a year older than the United States itself! Nearly half of the world's mail is delivered by USPS, and 500,000 people work there sorting, delivering mail, and helping behind the scenes. USPS is owned and run by our federal government, meaning voters help decide how our mail is delivered.

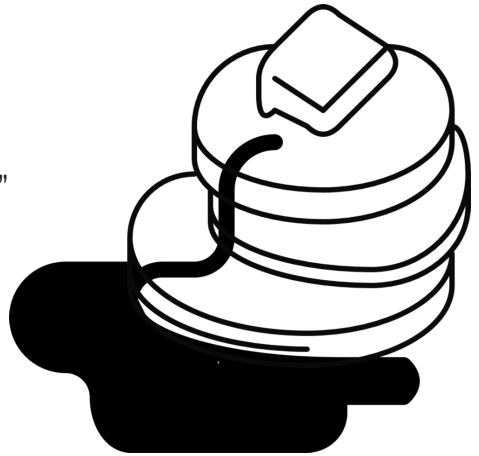
It's an important time for our national mail network right now; fewer people are sending things in the mail and social distancing orders across the country are making deliveries more challenging. The snail mail team and CodeVA are huge supporters of the United States Postal Service. We ask our elected officials to support USPS so that everyone has access to the mail. We ask that our Snail Mail readers do the same and take a moment to thank the postal service for working tirelessly for so many years.



Pancake Or Waffle?

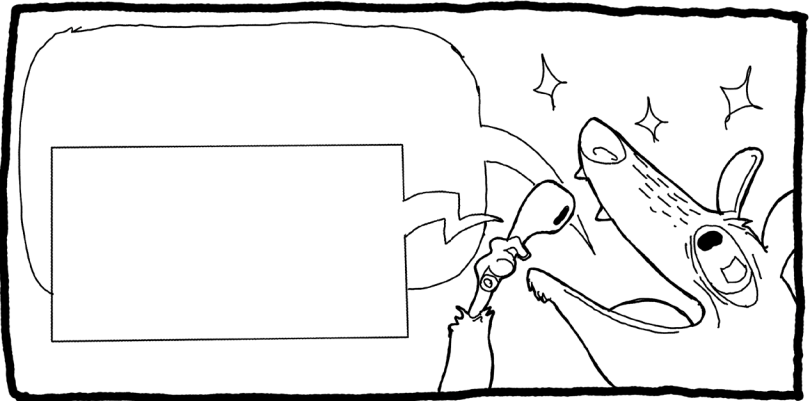
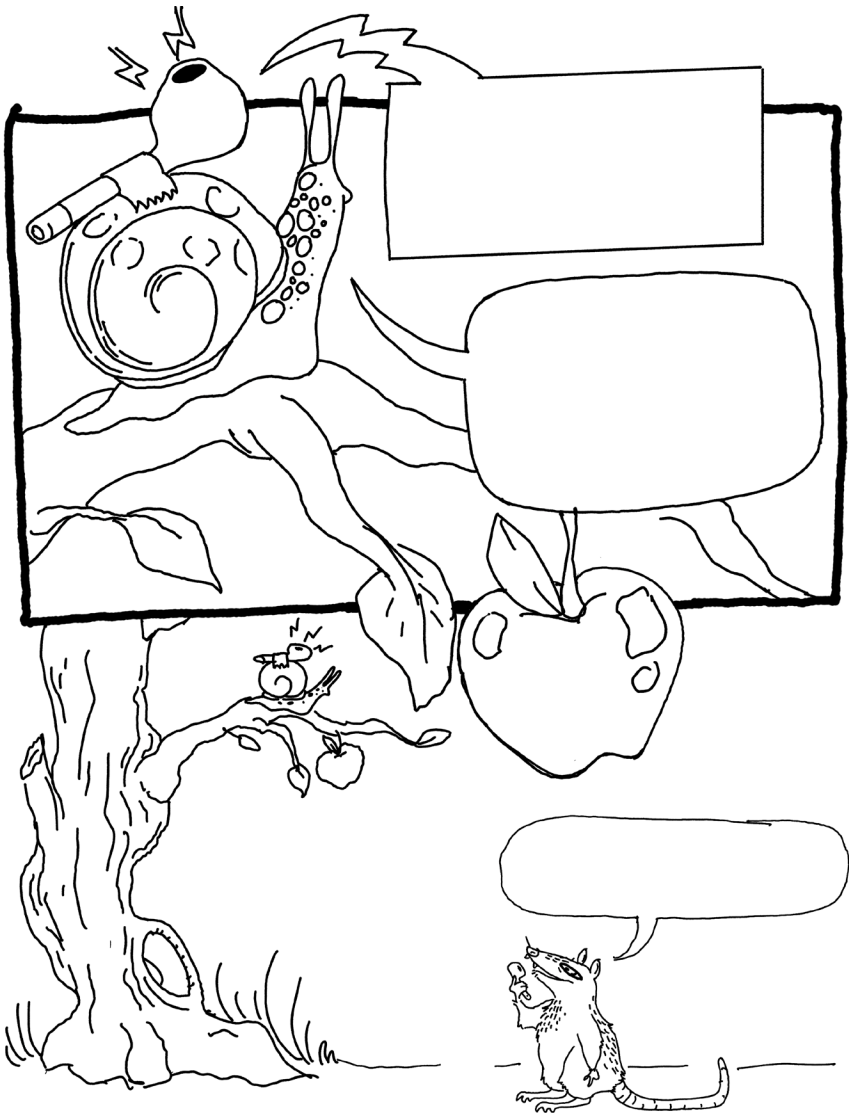
Pancake or Waffle is a game for two or more friends!

- To start, decide which player is the Host. The host picks a secret word that the other players-- the Questioners-- have to guess it!
- Once the word is chosen, a Questioner asks "Is it more like a Pancake or a Waffle?"
- The Host decides if their secret word is more like a pancake or a waffle and answers. Then the Questioner chooses another word to replace the option that the secret word was unlike.
- For example, if the secret word was more like a Pancake, the word Waffle disappears from the game and the Questioners can ask: "Is it more like a Pancake or a Shoe?" The Host decides if their secret word is more like a Pancake or a Shoe and once again shares their decision until the secret word is guessed!



Mini Pancake or Waffle - Play using things that you can see, like a modified version of I Spy.

What does this have to do with communication? To win this game, the Questioner team needs to pay very close attention to the clues. What are some ways to be a good listener? How can the Host be a good communicator?



Comics are an especially fun form of communication that combine text and images to tell a story! Fill in the blank text bubbles with what you imagine the characters are saying and continue illustrating the story here!

Submit your comic pages to us to be highlighted in the next issue of Snail Mail!

Communication Trivia!

How many of these trivia facts did you already know?
Try making a communication technology timeline!

There are cave drawings that predate language!

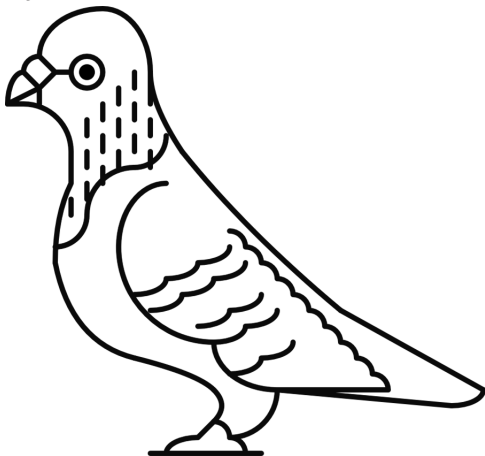
Carrier pigeons were raised and domesticated to fly to a familiar location with a message tied around their leg!

Smoke signals are one of the oldest forms of long-distance communication.

There are over 6,500 different spoken languages today!

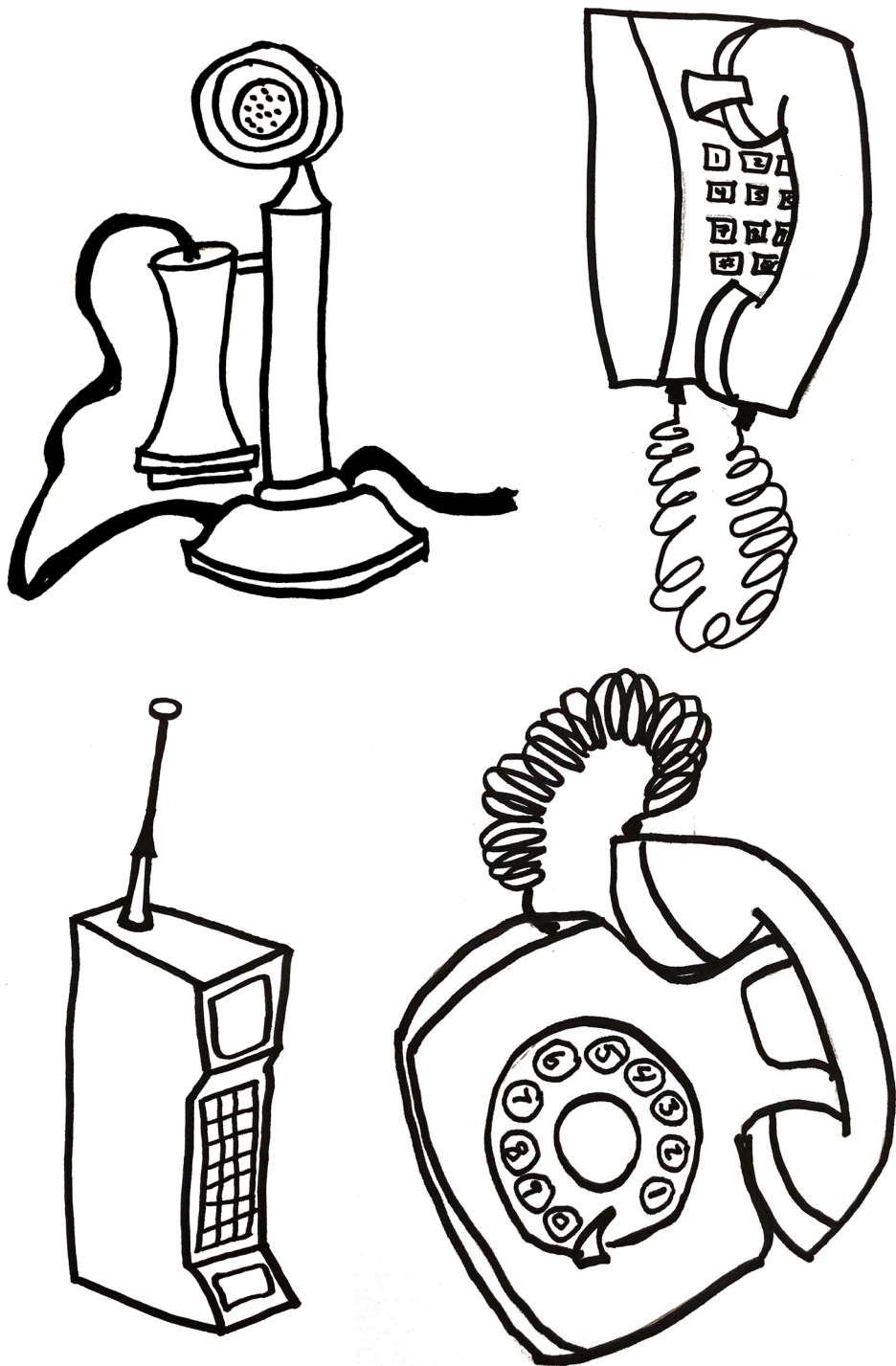
The Greek's Antikythera Mechanism was the first "computer", but it was fully analog. It used spinning gears to predict the locations of the planets and timing of eclipses. In analog technology, moving parts are used to repeat a single task, like a program.

Digital technology came much later, when the transistor was invented in 1947. Digital technology uses a binary system of "on" or "off" switches, sometimes hundreds or thousands of them.



A compiler is a script that translates other code languages into binary. As a developer, it's a lot easier to use Python or Java, but binary is the only language computers understand.

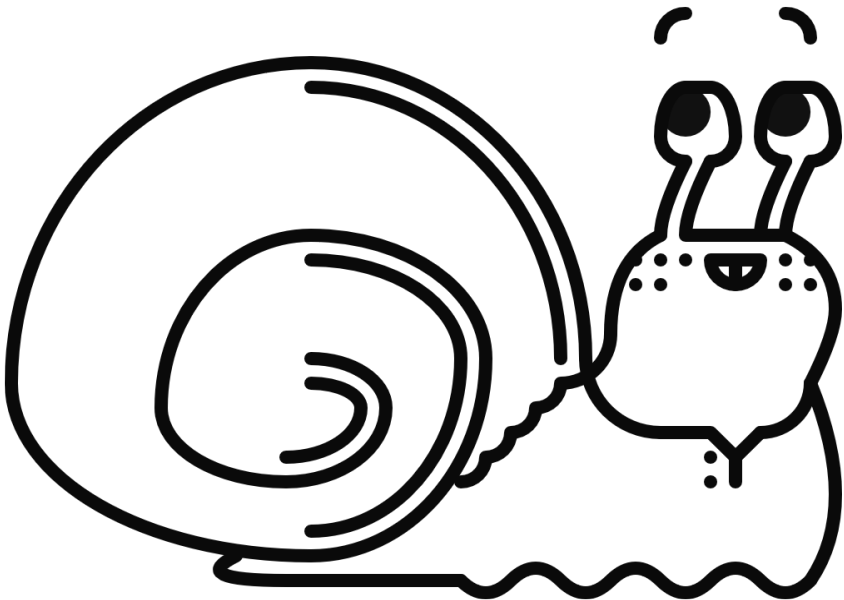
Coloring Page



CodeVA News

CodeVA's Eureka Workshop will be hosting monthly DoodleJams the last Friday of each month! DoodleJams are an interactive virtual environment where kids can interact with each other by drawing on a shared virtual canvas! We post invitations on our blog near the date of the jam, so be on the lookout for updates at codeva.info/DoodleJamSignUp

This Fall CodeVA's Eureka Workshop is partnering with Performing Statistics to create a mixed-media public artwork with youth from our communities. The piece will use visual art and digital components to illustrate the young folk's social justice message to the community. The program begins in September please check codeva.info/PerformingStatistics for more information



Resources

computer science classes and learning

adafruit - adafruit.com
hour of code - hourofcode.org
micro:bit - microbit.org

art & design

earsketch - earsketch.gatech.edu
gb studio - gbstudio.dev
makecode - makecode.com
piskelapp - piskelapp.com
usecubes - usecubes.com
3D Slash - 3Dslash.net
scratch - scratch.mit.edu

facts.usps.com

is a website run by the USPS that has an amazing interface holding facts, trivia, and the history of the USPS!

proudtobepprimary.com/social-skills-games/

has a great collection of social skill building games for younger kids!

codeVA

learn more about what we do at codevirginia.org



Enjoying Snail Mail?
Learn more about how we do it at
[CodeVA.info/ProjectSnailMail](https://codeva.info/ProjectSnailMail)



Refer back to our earlier issue on Cryptography for ways to *disguise* communication. And be on the lookout for part 2 of "Communication" next month! If you want to share anything you made this month, post it to social media using #projectsnailmail

**Sincerely Yours,
The Snail Mail Team**

CJ, Maggie, Natasha, Nut, Pepper, Thomas, Wuga, Zach



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