

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Lab: Decoding an Extraterrestrial Message

Pre-Lab Discussion

- You will receive a practice ET message that was invented by one of the SETI scientists. When we find a message from an intelligent civilization, we will need to interpret it!
- What do you need to know about an ET civilization to decode a message from one?

- Currently, SETI scientists are exploring _____ frequencies for signs of intelligent life in the universe. They expect a signal of intelligent origin to have a pattern that could not be made by a _____ occurring object.
- When a message is received, we expect the signal to also include a _____, this is information that could help to decode the message.
- How do you translate a radio signal into information that we can interpret?

Listen to the following message. What useful information from the message? Try and detect a pattern.

What are some strategies that we can use to decode the message?

Why would a picture from an extraterrestrial culture be more useful than their printed languages?

Lab Part I: Listen to the following message and record your data on the backside, in Data Table 1

Lab Part 2: Create your own message to send to another group.

1. Use graph on the backside (Graph #2) to plot out the picture message you will send
2. Translate your picture message to a “boing,” and “click” pattern on another piece of paper
3. Exchange your signal paper with another group and graph their picture
4. After you both graph your message, get back with the group and see if you were able to accurately interpret their message

Closure: What did you learn about creating and decoding ET messages through this activity?

