

[Meta] Signals Through Time

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Answer: [REDACTED]

Separate the feeder puzzles based on whether Tick or Tock shows up in their flavortext, ordering each set by the approximate year the corresponding event in history happened.

The approximate time periods can differ slightly depending on the source, but within each individual timeline, there should be a clear ordering.

Tick Puzzle	Tick Answer	Tick Approximate Year
Poetry for Neanderthals	SCRUNCH	Paleolithic era: 400,000 BCE - 40,000 BCE
Hieroglyphic Cryptarithmic	SYMBOL	Ancient Egypt, Old Kingdom: 2600 BCE - 2500 BCE
The Pillow Book	SECRET	Japan, Heian Period: 990 CE - 1002 CE
Revolutionary Opposites	PUBLIUS	US, Revolutionary War: 1772 CE - 1804 CE

Tock Puzzle	Tock Answer	Tock Approximate Year
Slipping and Sliding	ACORN	Ice Age: A really long time ago - 9700 BCE
Divine Associations	DOMAINS	Ancient Greece: 800 BCE - 400 CE
Walk the Clank	PLUNDER	Golden Age of Piracy: 1650 CE - 1730 CE
Decades Away	BROWN	Future: 2050 CE - 2060 CE

Now that the answers are ordered, we can compare each answer to the four modules in the dashboard image.

If the letters in the image are contained in the corresponding feeder answer, then the switch is "on." Otherwise the switch is "off." For example, no letter in A0ZF is contained in SCRUNCH, so the switches are all "off" towards the dot, hence mapping to "...." which is H in morse code.

Dashboard letters	Tick Answer	Cipher	Switches "on" or "off"	Letter
A0ZF	SCRUNCH	Morse		H
PYSLM	SYMBOL	Binary -> A1Z26	01111	O
RH NU EC	SECRET	Braille	* **	U
K V W D B I J T X G	PUBLIUS	Semaphore	---- ----	R

Dashboard letters	Tock Answer	Cipher	Switches "on" or "off"	Letter
A0ZF	ACORN	Morse	--..	Z
PYSLM	DOMAINS	Binary -> A1Z26	00101	E
RH NU EC	PLUNDER	Braille	* ** *	R
K V W D B I J T X G	BROWN	Semaphore	\ \ ----	O

(After writing the meta, we realized that in order to not repeat extraction methods, all of the common ciphers were off the table 🤔. It definitely made writing the feeder puzzles harder, but it also gave us a chance to flex our creativity!)

So the solution is **HOURL ZERO**.