

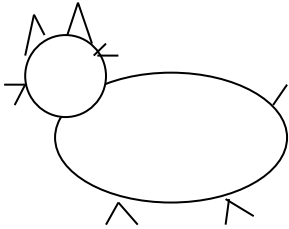
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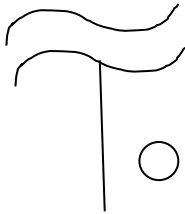
## Railway Symbolism & Hobo Code

In the early 1900's, many factors lead to a large amount of people losing their jobs and homes, which forced them to travel the county looking for work. At this time in history, there was no faster way to travel than the railroad, resulting in many people hopping on trains or following the railways. These travelers are often referred to as hobos and they created a secret code to alert other hobos of certain dangers while on the road. Sometimes referred to as Hobo Code, these sign and symbols were left all around the country on the sides of buildings and carved into trees beginning the 1900's.

Below are a few examples of real Hobo Code symbols and their meanings. Can you create your own secret code similar to Hobo Code? On page 2, create 5 symbols and write what each symbol means.



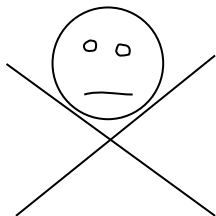
**Kind Lady Lives Here:** Hobo's left this symbol near homes where kind sympathetic women lived. These woman would often offer food and sometimes shelter to hobos, without expecting anything in return.



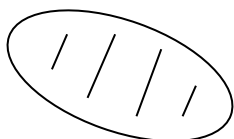
**Okay to sleep in barn:** There are many variations of this symbol, but if you saw this symbol – it is likely there is a barn or loft close by that you could safely spend the night in.



**Go around this town:** This is a symbol a Hobo might leave to warn others of a bad experience had in the upcoming town and encourage them to just avoid the town completely.



**Doctor lives here:** Illness and injury would have been life-threatening and a common occurrence for Hobos. This symbol marked houses where hobos could find a sympathetic and cheap doctor.



**Get bread here:** Much like the “kind lady lives here” symbol, this symbol was meant to mark a place where other hobos might receive a leftover dinner roll or at least a chance of a full belly.

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