

SPIES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The American Revolution took place during the 1700s, a time when writing letters was the only way to communicate with someone far away. The internet and telephones would not be invented for another 100 to 200 years, so delivery on foot was the only option! The letter would then be carried by a messenger (on horseback for longer distances) to its intended destination. It could take days, weeks, or even months for a letter to be delivered depending on how far it was meant to go.

Key Questions: How did important information travel from one person to another during the American Revolution without it being taken or intercepted by the opposite side?

INVISIBLE INK



Captain Jack races out of Charlotte to deliver the Mecklenburg Resolves, a series of government documents, to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

Invisible ink was a common way military leaders would conceal their messages, battle plans, strategies, and other important information they didn't want anyone British, Loyalist, or with questionable motives to know about. This kind of intelligence was key to gaining the upper hand during war-time. During the Revolution, knowledge really is power!

Writing Agent:
Lemon Juice

Reacting Agent:
Heat

Directions:

1. Grab a strip of paper and a white crayon to write your message in "invisible ink." This is your writing agent so you're not supposed to be able to see what it says just yet!
2. Pass your secret message to another person in your group. Everyone should have a message written by someone else.
3. Grab a marker - this will be your reacting agent, the method we'll use to uncover the message in invisible ink. By holding it on its side (rather than up & down), lightly shade from one side to another to unveil the secret message.

SPIES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The American Revolution took place during the 1700s, a time when writing letters was the only way to communicate with someone far away. The internet and telephones would not be invented for another 100 to 200 years, so delivery on foot was the only option! The letter would then be carried by a messenger (on horseback for longer distances) to its intended destination. It could take days, weeks, or even months for a letter to be delivered depending on how far it was meant to go.

Key Questions: How did important information travel from one person to another during the American Revolution without it being taken or intercepted by the opposite side?

CULPER'S SPY RING CODE

Culper's Spy Ring was a spy network that worked to bring information about British troops to General George Washington. This group of informants were so secretive, even Washington didn't know all of their identities. They used top secret writing methods to protect themselves and their fellow Patriots as they arranged to overthrow the British Crown and declare independence - if they were caught, they would be arrested as traitors.



To write longer and more detailed messages, they created a secret code using a list of numbers to represent over 700 different words related to the Revolution. Once the message was delivered, it could then be decoded using a key that matched each number to its respective word, spelling out the message that was hidden in plain sight!

Directions:

1. Split your group into two or more smaller groups and assign a Scribe for each. This person will write your secret message, so make sure it's someone with neat handwriting or your message may get decoded incorrectly!
2. Give each Scribe two sheets of paper and writing instrument. Come up with a team name and write it on the top of both sheets.
3. Using the Culper Spy Ring Code, write out a one-sentence message using both the words and their corresponding numbers.
4. Once your message is complete, on the second sheet of paper write your message again using only the numbers. Separate each "word" with a comma or a line.
5. Pass your secret message to another group and see if they decode it correctly!

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

A					
1	a	34	assign	67	barron
2	an	35	assume	68	brigade
3	all	36	attempt	69	business
4	at	37	attone	70	battery
5	and	38	attack	71	battalion
6	art	39	alarm	72	british
7	arms	40	action	C	
8	about	41	accomplish	73	camp
9	above	42	apprehend	74	came
10	absent	43	abatis	75	cost
11	absurd	44	accommodate	76	corps
12	adorn	45	alternative	77	change
13	adopt	46	artillery	78	carry
14	adore	47	ammunition	79	clergy
15	advise	B		80	common
16	adjust	48	be	81	consult
17	adjourn	49	bay	82	contest
18	afford	50	by	83	contract
19	affront	51	best	84	content
20	affair	52	but	85	Congress
21	again	53	buy	86	captain
22	april	54	bring	87	careful
23	agent	55	boat	88	city
24	alter	56	barn	89	clamour
25	ally	57	banish	90	column
26	any	58	baker	91	copy
27	appear	59	battle	92	cover
28	appoint	60	better	93	county
29	august	61	beacon	94	courage
30	approve	62	behalf	95	credit
31	arrest	63	bitter	96	custom
32	arraign	64	bottom	97	compute
33	amuse	65	bounty	98	conduct
		66	bondage	99	comply

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

100	confine	133	dislodge	166	engage
101	caution	134	dismiss	167	enclose
102	conquer	135	dragoon	168	equip
103	coward	136	detain	169	excuse
104	confess	137	divert	170	exert
105	convict	138	discourse	171	expand
106	cannon	139	disband	172	expose
107	charactor	140	dismount	173	extort
108	circumstance	141	disarm	174	express
109	clothier	142	detect	175	embark
110	company	143	defense	176	employ
111	confident	144	deceive	177	explore
112	committee	145	delay	178	enemy
113	continue	146	difficult	179	example
114	contradict	147	disapprove	180	embassador
115	correspond	148	disregard	181	engagement
116	controversy	149	disappoint	182	experience
117	commission	150	disagree	183	evacuate
118	commissioner	151	disorder		F
119	constitution	152	dishonest	184	Farm
	D	153	discover	185	face
120	date	154	december	186	fate
121	day	155	demolish	187	false
122	dead	156	deliver	188	friend
123	do	157	desolate	189	fen
124	die	158	during	190	find
125	damage		E	191	form
126	doctor	159	ear	192	fort
127	dirty	160	eye	193	fleet
128	drummer	161	end	194	famine
129	daily	162	enquire	195	father
130	dispatch	163	effect	196	foggy
131	distant	164	endure	197	folly
132	danger	165	enforce	198	frugal

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

199	faithfull	232	gazette	265	heavy
200	favour	233	grateful	266	honest
201	faulty	234	glacis	267	hunger
202	foreign	235	general	268	honor
203	forget	236	garrison	269	harmony
204	fulfil	237	gentleman	270	hazardous
205	factor	238	glorious	271	hesitate
206	faulty	239	gradual	272	history
207	favorite	240	granadier	273	horrible
208	fortune		H	274	hospital
209	forget	241	hay	275	hurrican
210	foreigner	242	he	276	hypocrite
211	fortitude	243	his	277	DOCUMENT DAMAGE
212	fortify	244	him	278	DOCUMENT DAMAGE
213	formidable	245	haste	279	DOCUMENT DAMAGE
214	foundation	246	hand		I
215	february	247	hang	280	I
	G	248	hour?	281	if
216	get	249	have	282	in
217	great	250	head	283	is
218	good	251	high	284	it
219	gun	252	hill	285	ice
220	go	253	hope	286	ink
221	gain	254	hut	287	into
222	guide	255	horse	288	instance
223	gold	256	house	289	island
224	glory	257	happy	290	impress
225	gunner	258	hardy	291	improve
226	gloomy	259	harvest	292	incamp
227	govern	260	horrid	293	incur
228	grandieure	261	horseman	294	infest
229	guilty	262	human	295	inforce
230	guinea	263	havock	296	instance
231	gallant	264	healthy	297	insnare

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

298	instruct	332	infection	363	liquid
299	intrigue	333	irregular	364	longitude
300	intrust	334	invalid	365	latitude
301	instant	335	indians	366	laudable
302	invest		J	367	legible
303	invite	336	June	368	liberty
304	ignorant	337	July	369	lottery
305	impudent	338	jury	370	literature
306	industry	339	jealous		M
307	infamous	340	justify	371	man
308	influence	341	january	372	map
309	infantry		K	373	may
310	infantry (symbol)	342	key	374	march
311	injury	343	king	375	mast
312	innocent	344	kill	376	make
313	instrument	345	know	377	met
314	intimate		L	378	me
315	illegal	346	law	379	my
316	imagin	347	land	380	much
317	important	348	love	381	move
318	imprison	349	low	382	most
319	improper	350	lot	383	mine
320	incumber	351	lord	384	many
321	inhuman	352	light	385	mercy
322	inquiry	353	last	386	moment
323	interview	354	learn	387	murder
324	incorrect	355	lady	388	measure
325	interceed	356	letter	389	method
326	interfere	357	levy	390	mischief
327	intermix	358	levies-new	391	mistake
328	introduce	359	liar	392	molest
329	immediate	360	lucky	393	majesty
330	impatient	361	language	394	meditate
331	incouragemt	362	limit	395	memory

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

396	messenger	429	nobility	462	october
397	misery		O	463	obscure
398	moveable	430	oath	464	occasion
399	multitude	431	of	465	opinion
400	miscarry	432	off	466	oppression
401	misfortune	433	on	467	opportunity
402	miserable	434	or	468	obligation
403	mercenary	435	out		P
404	majority	436	offer	469	pay
405	minority	437	office	470	peace
406	memorial	438	onset	471	plan
407	missterious	439	order	472	put
408	manufacture	440	over	473	port
409	moderator	441	obstruct	474	proof
410	ministerial	442	obtain	475	please
	N	443	observe	476	part
411	name	444	occur	477	paper
412	new	445	offense	478	pardon
413	no	446	ommit	479	party
414	not	447	oppose	480	perfect
415	night	448	obligate	481	pilot
416	never	449	obstinate	482	prudent
417	needful	450	obviate	483	publish
418	number	451	occupy	484	purchase
419	neither	452	operate	485	purpose
420	nothing	453	origin	486	people
421	neglect	454	ornament	487	pleasure
422	nation	455	overcome	488	produce
423	navy	456	overlook	489	prison
424	natural	457	overtake	490	progress
425	negative	458	overrun	491	promise
426	negligence	459	overthrow	502	preserve
427	november	460	obedience	503	pretend
428	necessary	461	objection	504	promote

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

505	propose	537	rain	571	ratify
506	protect	538	run	572	recompence
507	provost	539	rule	573	regular
508	pursue	540	read	574	regulate
509	passenger	541	rise	575	rigorous
510	passion	542	random	576	recital
511	pension	543	ransom	577	recover
512	period	544	rather	578	remember
513	persecute	545	real	579	remittance
514	poverty	546	riot	580	represent
515	power or powerful	547	robber	581	rebellion
516	prosperous	548	ready	582	reduction
517	punishment	549	ruin	583	remarkable
518	preferment	550	ruler	584	reinforcemt
519	production	551	rapid	585	refugee
520	pursuant	552	reader		S
521	pensioner	553	rebel	586	sail
522	Parliament	554	rigor	587	see
523	persecution	555	river	588	sea
524	practicable	556	receit	589	scheme
525	profitable	557	refit	590	set
526	particular	558	regain	591	send
527	petition	559	rejoice	592	ship
528	profession	560	relate	593	safe
529	proclaim	561	request	594	same
530	provision	562	relax	595	sky
531	protection	563	redoubt	596	secret
	Q	564	rely	597	seldom
532	quick	565	remit	598	sentence
533	question	566	reprieve	599	servant
534	quantity	567	repulse	600	signal
535	quallity	568	reward	601	silent
	R	569	retract	602	suffer
536	rank	570	resign	603	sudden

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

604	surprise	637	therefore	669	unto
605	summer	638	timber	670	unarm
606	speaker	639	tory	671	unfit
607	steady	640	transport	672	unheard
608	submit	641	trail	673	unsafe
609	surpass	642	traitor	674	uniform
610	sanction	643	transgress	675	uncertain
611	sensible	644	translate	676	uncommon
612	singular	645	terrible	677	unfriendly
613	soldier	646	tyranny	678	unfortunate
614	sovereign		V		W
615	security	647	vain	679	wind
616	severity	648	vaunt	680	war
617	?	649	vouch	681	was
618	september	650	vacant	682	we
619	surrender	651	vary	683	will
620	serviceable	652	venture	684	with
621	security	653	vital	685	when
622	severity	654	vulgar	686	wharf
623	society	655	value	687	wound
624	superior	656	virtue	688	wood
	T	657	visit	689	want
625	the	658	valiant	690	wait
626	that	659	victory	691	write
627	this	660	vigilant	692	who
628	these	661	vigorous	693	wish
629	they	662	violent	694	whose
630	there	663	volenteer	695	wages
631	thing	664	valuable	696	warlike
632	though	665	voluntary	697	welfare
633	time		U	698	willing
634	to	666	up	699	winter
635	troops	667	upper	700	water
636	thankfull	668	upon	701	woman

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

702	writer	732	Staten Island
703	waggon	733	Boston
704	weary	734	Rhode Island
705	warrant	735	Connecticut
	Y	736	New Jersey
706	yet	737	Pennsylvania
707	you	738	Maryland
708	your	739	Virginia
709	yesterday	740	North Carolina
	Z	741	South Carolina
710	zeal	742	Georgia
	PROPER NAMES	743	Quebeck
711	Gen Washington	744	Hallifax
712	Clinton	745	England
713	Tryon	746	London
714	Erskind	747	Portsmouth
715	Vaughan	748	Plymouth
716	Robinson	749	Ireland
717	Brown	750	Corke
718	Gen Garth	751	Scotland
719	North, Lord	752	West Indies
720	Germain	753	East Indies
721	Bolton John	754	Gibraltar
722	Culper Sam	755	France
723	Culper Junr.	756	Spain
724	Austin Roe	757	Scotland
725	C. Brewster	758	Portugal
726	Rivingston	759	Denmark
	PLACES	760	Russia
727	New York	761	Germany
728	Long Island	762	Hanover
729	Setauket	763	Head Quarters
730	Kingsbridge		
731	Bergen		

B Culper Spy Ring Codes B

ALPHABET		NUMBERS	
A	e	1	e
B	f	2	f
C	g	3	g
D	h	4	i
E	i	5	k
F	j	6	m
G	a	7	n
H	b	8	o
I	c	9	q
J	d	o	u
K	o		
L	m		
M	n		
N	p		
O	q		
P	r		
Q	k		
R	l		
S	u		
T	v		
U	w		
V	x		
W	y		
X	z		
Y	s		
Z	t		

Directions for the Alphabet

N.B. the use of the alphabet is when you wish to express some words not mentioned in the numerical Dictionary. For instance the word heart would be expressed thus bielv. look the letters of the real word in the first column of the Alphabet and then apposite to them, let those letters in the second column represent them; in this case always observe to draw a line under the word, as fvv stands for but.

Numbers are represented by their opposite Letters which must have a double line under them as fikm is 2 4 5 6. & nqu is 7 9 0.

Directions for the numerical Dictionary

In the numerical Dictionary it is sufficient to express a part of a sentence only in figures, to make the rest perfectly unintelligible, as all words cannot be mentioned those of a synonymous meaning must be sought for. & if not to be found, & the word not proper to be wrote, then the alphabet must be used - When numbers are used always observe to put a period after the number thus 284. Stands for it & 295. inforce.

It will often happen that the same word may need to be changed thro the different moods, tenses, nums. &c - thus if you would express the word Introduce the number would be 328. if you express the word introduced make a small flourish over the same ~328 - Horse is repres[ented] by 255. Horses by ~255., kill by 344. killed by ~344. impress by 290. impressed by ~290, in such cases the Foregoing & subsequent parts must determin the word.