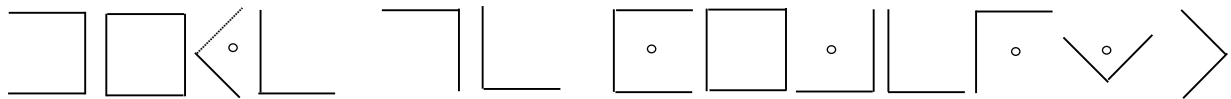


Anna's Adventures

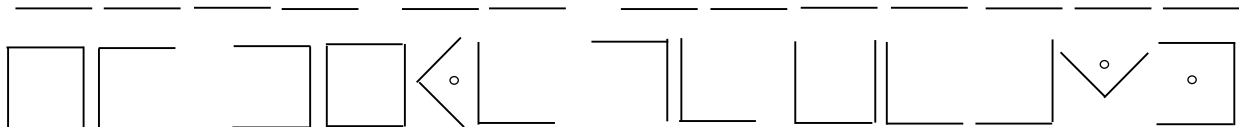
I Spy

Decipher the Cipher!

You are a member of the Culper Ring, an espionage organization from the Revolutionary War. Practice your ciphering skills by decoding the inspiring words of a famous patriot.



G



Use these keys to decipher the code above. As you can see, the key is made up of two diagrams with letters inside. To decode the message, match the coded symbols above to the letters in the key. If the symbol has no dot, use the first letter in the key. If the symbol has a dot, use the second letter.

A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P	Q	R

S	T
Y	Z
U	V
W	X

For example, look at the first symbol of the code. The highlighted portion of the key has the same shape as the first symbol. That shape has two letters in it, a "G" and an "H". The first symbol in the code has no dot, so it must stand for the letter "G".

When you're done decoding the message, try using the key to write messages of your own!

Did You Know?

Spying was a dangerous business! Nathan Hale, a spy for the Continental Army during the American Revolution, was executed by the British on September 22, 1776. It was then that he uttered his famous last words: "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."

Anna's Adventures

I Spy

Un-Mask a Secret!

A spy gave you the secret message below. But it looks like an ordinary letter! Luckily, another messenger gave you a mask, a piece of paper with a pattern cut out of it. Cut out the grey portion of the mask and place the remaining piece on the letter. Do you see the secret message?

I hope that this letter finds you well my dear. Regarding your last letter, you should not worry at all about Cornwallis. I do not think he is a threat. There are a lot of soldiers moving around in this area, is it the same where you are? North, towards New York, a large number of slaves escaped. I bet Yorktown is where they are heading. Are you going to the ball? They should be having one soon in your area. We hope to be there sometime in June but it's hard, for the roads are bad in April. About 8,000 pounds of tobacco came in last year. Total number of men needed to bring in the crop this year: perhaps 144. Cannons have destroyed some of the fields here. Do not worry though, our fields are fine, we can sell to the French. Ships sail in and out of the port all day. I hope I will be there soon. To help you with your letters, I will try sending more supplies, like paper and ink and quills. Milk, butter, bread, beans, and tea are getting hard to come by. This could be the end of winter though, it is getting warm. The British Army seems to be getting stronger all the time. I think the end of the war is getting near. I bet the British will win.

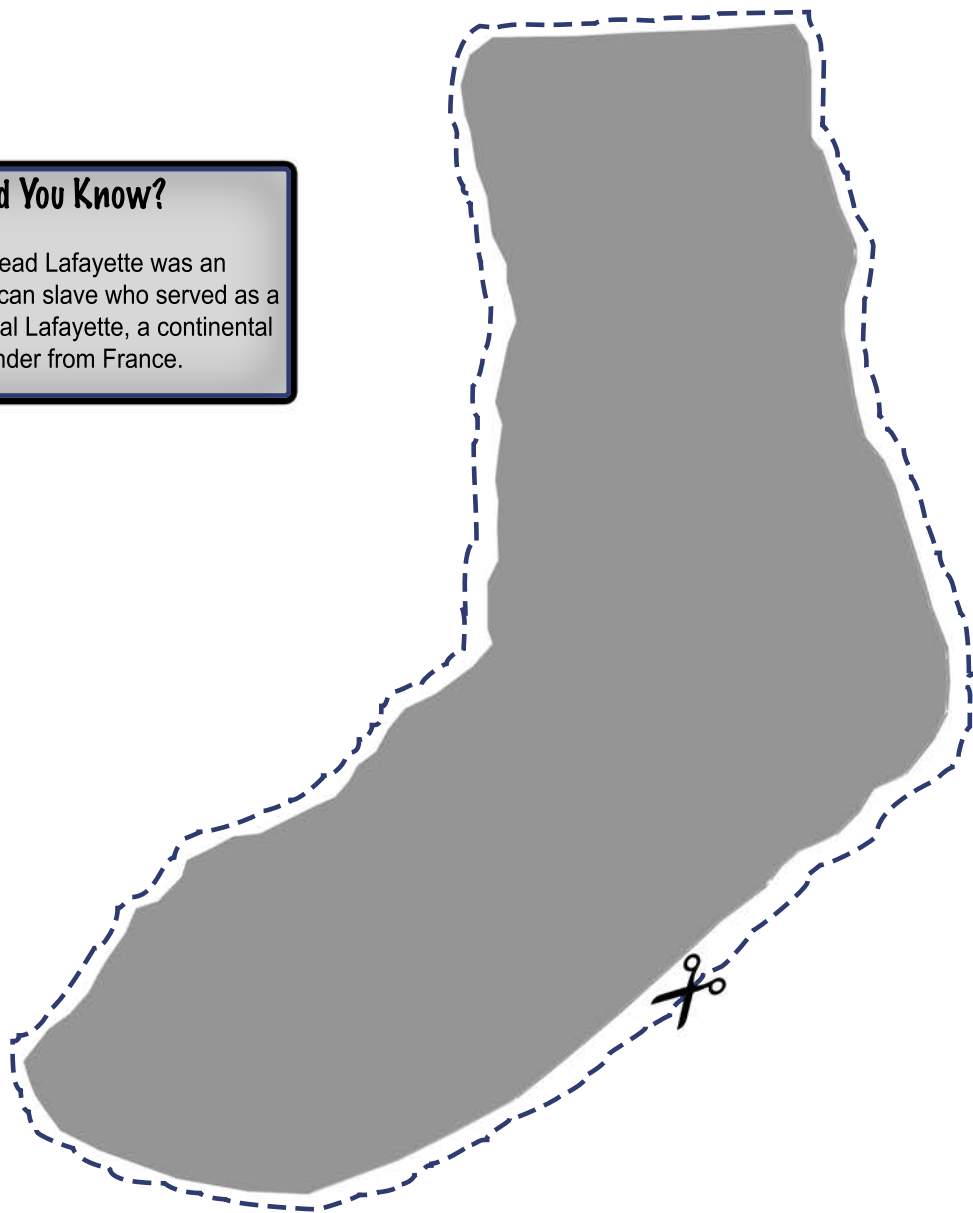
Anna's Adventures

I Spy

Cut along the dotted line and remove the grey portion of the paper. Use the remaining mask to reveal the secret message in the spy's letter.

Did You Know?

James Armistead Lafayette was an African American slave who served as a spy for General Lafayette, a continental army commander from France.



Anna's Adventures

I Spy

You are a spy during the American Revolution. Use the given cypher to decode the coded message.

LEGEND

1st Number: Line the letter is in
 2nd Number: Word the letter is in
 3rd Number: Letter in the word

157 213 245 432 243

342 655 743 511 761

844 973 412 642 524

821 1051 1141 573

1513 965 1131 1333

1624 544 1445 721

967 1249 211 658

*Beneath this stone brave Braddock lies,
 Who always hated cowardice,
 But fell a savage sacrifice,
 Amidst his Indian Foes.*

*I charge you, heroes, of the ground,
 To guard his dark pavilion round,
 And keep off all obtruding sound,
 And cherish his repose.*

*Sleep, sleep, I say, brave valiant man,
 Bold death, at last, has bid thee stand
 And to resign thy great command,
 And cancel thy commission.
 Altho' thou didst not much incline
 Thy post and honors to resign;
 Now iron slumber doth confine;
 None envy's thy condition.*

*General Edward Braddock, His Epitaph
 By Stephen Tilden, August, 1755*

Did you know?

General George Washington learned how to use a cypher when he served under British Major General Edward Braddock during the French and Indian War.

Now you know how to make and use a cypher! Now you can find a text and create your own cypher to send coded messages to your friends and family.

Anna's Adventures

I Spy

Use the cypher below to decode a message from the Continental Army. The numbers correspond to different letters in the poem "Liberty Tree" by Thomas Paine. The first letter in the sequence corresponds to the line of the poem, the second number corresponds to the word in the line, and the third number corresponds to the letter in the word.

For example, the first number in the cypher is 131. The '1' means that the letter is in the first line of the poem. The '3' means that the letter is in the third word, so the letter must be in the word "chariot". Finally, the last '1' corresponds to the first letter of "chariot", so 131 is code for the letter "c"

131 222 313 346 523 627 1036 834 1631 1332 151

1621 1422 933 1263 831 2426

121 1724 343 111 7113 1041 2233 221 1711 182

743 1334 411 223 867 611 111 1354 912

1221 1054 1251 1532 624 337 2327 1221

Thomas Paine and "Liberty Tree"

Thomas Paine was a patriot and writer who is most famous for writing "Common Sense", a pamphlet on the tyranny of the British. "Liberty Tree", the Thomas Paine poem on the next page, refers to an elm tree near Boston Common which was a rallying point for American protestors during the Revolution.

Anna's Adventures

I Spy

"Liberty Tree" by Thomas Paine

In a chariot of light from the regions of the day,
The Goddess of Liberty came,
Ten thousand celestials directed her way,
And hither conducted the dame.
A fair budding branch from the gardens above,
Where millions with millions agree,
She brought in her hand as a pledge of her love,
and the plant she named Liberty Tree."
The celestial exotic stuck deep in the ground,
Like a native it flourished and bore;
The fame of its fruit drew the nations around
To seek out this peaceable shore.
Unmindful of names or distinctions they came,
For freemen like brothers agree;
With one Spirit endued, they one friendship pursued,
And their temple was Liberty Tree.
But hear, O ye swains ('tis a tale most profane),
How all the tyrannical powers,
Kings, Commons, and Lords, are uniting amain
To cut down this guardian of ours.
From the east to the west blow the trumpet to arms,
Thro' the land let the sound of it flee:
Let the far and the near all unite with a cheer,
In defense of our Liberty Tree.