

Name _____

How Did Washington Use Spies?

1. What are two methods the Culper Spy Ring use to send secret messages?
2. What role did a spy play in the American Revolution?
3. Why would George Washington spread disinformation?
4. How do these methods reflect the available technology of the American Revolution?
5. What did the British say was the reason America won the war?

How Did Washington Use Spies? **Answer Key**

1. What are two methods the Culper Spy Ring used to send secret messages?

Possible Answers: code names, ciphers, book codes, locations of “dead drops” (such as Abraham Woodhull’s farm), clothesline codes (such as the one used by Anna Strong), and propaganda; false messages and less-formal networks for intelligence-gathering, frequently relying on scouts to collect and convey information; invisible ink

2. What role did a spy play in the American Revolution?

Answer: The war for independence from Great Britain was not just one of battles and firearms, it was one of intelligence. Compared to the formidable British forces, Washington’s army was under-trained, under-staffed, under-equipped, and under-funded. In order to win, he needed to out-manuever and out-smart the enemy. The role of a spy was to inform the army General about the battle plans of the other side. The spy had to keep the information gathered secret and pass it through many channels before it reached its destination.

3. Why would George Washington spread disinformation?

Answer: George Washington would spread false messages about military movements and attacks on various forts, sending them via regular post to ensure that they would be intercepted by the British, acting as decoy information.

4. How do these methods reflect the available technology of the American Revolution?

Possible Answers: The only means of transport were by horse, boat, or foot travel. Because there were no telephones or internet, intelligence had to be written manually and physically carried to its destination. The use of codes and invisible ink were innovations that George Washington used to communicate.

5. What did the British say was the reason America won the war?

Answer: As one defeated British intelligence officer is often quoted as saying, “Washington did not really outfight the British. He simply out-spied us.”

Instructions for Making Invisible Ink

During the American Revolution, invisible ink was an important method of communication for spies on both sides.



Ingredients and Supplies

¼ cup baking soda
¼ cup water
Grape Juice
Paper
Toothpick/Q-Tip

Recipe courtesy of the book *Invisible Ink: Spycraft of the American Revolution* by John Nagy

Step 1 - Mix



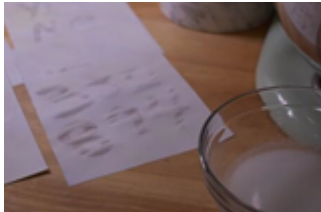
Mix ¼ cup baking soda and ¼ cup water

Step 2 - Wet your 'pencil'



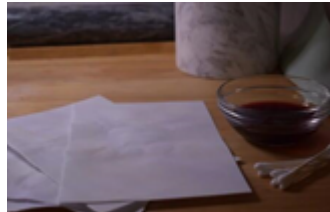
Dip a cotton swab, toothpick or paintbrush into the mixture.

Step 3 - Write your message



Write a message on a white piece of paper and allow it to dry.

Step 4 - Apply the decoding reagent



Dip a cotton swab into grape juice concentrate or any dark juice and paint it over the invisible message.

Step 5 - Reveal the message!



Wait for your message to appear.

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Writing Your Secret Message

1. Choose a vocabulary word from this lesson. Using the agent chemical, write a complete sentence using your chosen word.
2. Have your partner use the reagent to read your message. Write the vocabulary word you made invisible and its definition here.
3. What substance acted as the agent?
4. What substance acted as the reagent?

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Writing Your Secret Message

1. Choose a vocabulary word from this lesson. Using the agent chemical, write a complete sentence using your chosen word.
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Writing Your Secret Message **Answer Key**

1. Choose a vocabulary word from this lesson. Using the agent chemical, write a complete sentence using your chosen word. **See #2**
2. Have your partner use the reagent to read your message. Write the vocabulary word you made invisible and its definition here.

Answer will be one of these:

Patriot: a colonist who favored war against Britain

civil disobedience: the refusal to obey unjust laws using non-violent means

Loyalist: a colonist who remained loyal to Britain

agent: substance that can bring about a chemical reaction or a biological effect

reagent: a compound or mixture used to detect the presence or absence of another substance

espionage: the practice of spying or of using spies, typically by governments to obtain political and military information

3. What substance acted as the agent? **Baking soda is the agent used.**
4. What substance acted as the reagent? **Grape juice is the reagent used.**

Name _____ **The Geography of Spying**

Directions: Using the Routes of the Revolutionary Spy Letter map, map legend, and compass rose provided, answer the following questions about the Culper Spy Ring and the Revolutionary War.

1. William Howe sent a letter to John Burgoyne, July 17, 1777. In it, he mentions bringing troops to join General Washington in Pennsylvania. The letter travels from New York City to Fort Ticonderoga (3), how many miles did the letter travel?
2. If an average trail horse can travel 50 miles per day, how many days would this letter from Howe take to get to Burgoyne?
3. General Washington sent a letter to Benjamin Tallmadge, June 27, 1779. This letter detailed a new spy who would enter the Culper Spy Ring, George Higday, who was part of the British regiment. The letter traveled from New Windsor, to Poundridge, to New York City (6). What two bodies of water did the letter have to travel over?
4. On May 29, 1781, General Washington wrote Dr. Baker asking for “a pair of Pincers to fasten the wire of my teeth.” Washington had false teeth made from the teeth of a cow and hippopotamus ivory. He had a set of metal springs fastened to his mouth to keep the dentures in place. This letter traveled from New Windsor to Philadelphia (10). How many miles would his “pair of Pincers” have to travel back to him? What river would they have to cross?
5. While in New York, Henry Clinton wrote to John Burgoyne in Bennington. He mentioned that William Howe’s army was heading to Chesapeake Bay. Which states did his letter travel through (4)?
6. Benedict Arnold was branded a traitor, switching sides to fight for the British. Before his treachery, Arnold sent a letter to John Andre, July 12, 1780, detailing French support for the Continental Army. His letter traveled from Philadelphia to New York, which direction did it travel?
7. The battles of Bunker Hill, Lexington, and Concord took place in which state?

The Geography of Spying **Answer Key**

Directions: Using the Routes of the Revolutionary Spy Letter map, map legend, and compass rose provided, answer the following questions about the Culper Spy Ring and the Revolutionary War.

1. William Howe sent a letter to John Burgoyne, July 17, 1777. In it, he mentions bringing troops to join General Washington in Pennsylvania. The letter travels from New York City to Fort Ticonderoga (3), how many miles did the letter travel? **180 miles**
2. If an average trail horse can travel 50 miles per day, how many days would this letter from Howe take to get to Burgoyne? **3.6 days**
3. General Washington sent a letter to Benjamin Tallmadge, June 27, 1779. This letter detailed a new spy who would enter the Culper Spy Ring, George Higday, who was part of the British regiment. The letter traveled from New Windsor, to Poundridge, to New York City (6). What two bodies of water did the letter have to travel over? **Hudson River and Atlantic Ocean**
4. On May 29, 1781, General Washington wrote Dr. Baker asking for “a pair of Pincers to fasten the wire of my teeth.” Washington had false teeth made from the teeth of a cow and hippopotamus ivory. He had a set of metal springs fastened to his mouth to keep the dentures in place. This letter traveled from New Windsor to Philadelphia (10). How many miles would his “pair of Pincers” have to travel back to him? What river would they have to cross? **120 miles, Delaware River**
5. While in New York, Henry Clinton wrote to John Burgoyne in Bennington. He mentioned that William Howe’s army was heading to Chesapeake Bay. Which states did his letter travel through (4)? **New York, Vermont, with New Jersey (optional)**
6. Benedict Arnold was branded a traitor, switching sides to fight for the British. Before his treachery, Arnold sent a letter to John Andre, July 12, 1780, detailing French support for the Continental Army. His letter traveled from Philadelphia to New York, which direction did it travel? **northeast**
7. The battles of Bunker Hill, Lexington, and Concord took place in which state?
Massachusetts