

# Crack the Code

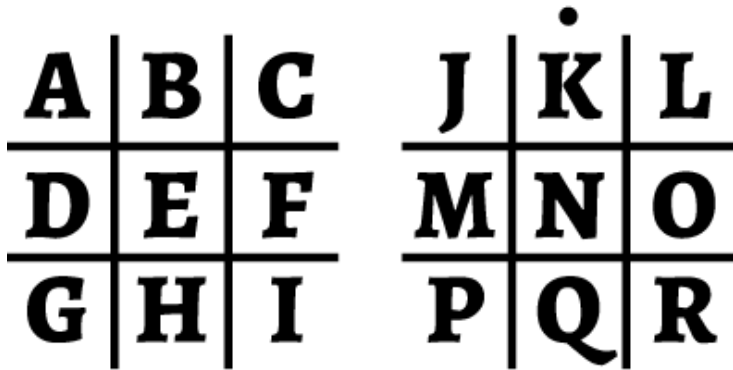
## Content:

One of the most important tools General Washington used to win the American Revolution were specially encoded messages. Encrypted messages was just one way spy rings communicated. Techniques such as invisible inks, ciphers, coded letters, and mask letters were all techniques used. The Culper Spy Ring used a numerical code book which consisted of 763 numbers representing words, names and places to communicate their information gathered on military operations in New York. This spy ring was organized by Major Benjamin Tallmadge under the orders of General George Washington.

## Activity:

There were many types of special codes and one that Patriot agents could use was called a pigpen cipher. Using the letters and grids below, you can encode and decode just about any message. If you see a dot in the shape, use one of the grids that have a dot over them. Try to decode the message below to see General Washington's battle plan!

Example:  = N



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## Extend the Experience:

John André

A major in the British Army, he also served as the head of its Secret Service in America during the Revolutionary War. He worked to turn the disillusioned General Benedict Arnold against the colonial cause. Research to learn more about Major André, what happened to him during the Revolution, and what codes he used to pass messages.

Write Your Own Code

Using the pigpen cypher, write your own coded message. Share your message to see if someone can decode it.