What is a Spy?

A spy is someone who collects and reports secret information about an enemy or competitor. It was a dangerous job, so spies had to be extra careful not to get caught.

How do Spies Communicate?

**Codes** Benjamin Tallmadge was George Washington’s head of intelligence and the leader of the Culper Ring. He wrote the Tallmadge Code, which substituted numbers for words, locations, and people. For example, New York had the code number 727 and General Washington’s code was 711.

**Ciphers** rearranged the alphabet, so ABCD might be written as MNOP in the secret message.

**Masks** are pieces of paper with holes cut out in a particular order or shape to reveal a hidden message. A spy would write a secret message, then write a letter around the message to disguise it. When laid overtop the letter, the mask would reveal the secret message.

**Invisible Ink** was used by both the British and Continental Armies and was added in between the lines of innocent looking letters. The secret messages in the letters were revealed using chemicals.
Revolutionary Spies

Both the British and the Patriots used spies during the American Revolution. There were also double agents, who pretended to work for one side while secretly collecting information for the other. The bolded names of spies below are hidden in the crossword puzzle. See if you can find them all!

N A A Q A R M I S T E A D F G
S F N B W Q M W L E Q A W M H
H K D Q K G C D G B E A O B A
I X R O P Z L D H M V G O U L
P H E K B O A G V V N I D I E
P I D U N M A N S O A Z H O N
E W R R L R G E R N Z X U W R
N F A L R D W T X P U M L E Y
T K A A U X S A U H H F L P M
U T D B G J Z T O W N S E N D

Nathan Hale: American spy
one of the first American spies

Benjamin Tallmadge: the head of Washington’s Culper Ring

Margaret “Peggy” Shippen: helped turn her husband Benedict Arnold into a spy for the British

James Armistead: enslaved man who was a double agent for the Marquis de Lafayette

Abraham Woodhull: member of the Culper Ring, reported information directly to Benjamin Tallmadge

Anna Strong: member of the Culper Ring, hung petticoats to signal information was ready to be picked up

John André: oversaw British Intelligence in North America

Lydia Darragh: hid coded messages in her son’s buttons for him to deliver

Robert Townsend: member of the Culper Ring, spied on the British army from his mercantile shop in New York

Benedict Arnold: an American general who defected and began spying for the British
**THE CULPER CODE**

The Culper Code was used by the Culper Spies on Long Island. It was written by Benjamin Tallmadge, George Washington’s Chief of Intelligence. The Culper Code uses numbers to represent 763 common words. For example, 220.634.711.282.739 meant “Go to General Washington in Virginia.”

Can you solve these codes using the Culper Code?

1. ____________ will go to ____________ in __________.
   
   711 727 374

2. ___________ in danger. _______ almost discovered by __________.
   
   722 92 178

3. An _________ on _________ now is _________. _______ until _________ gets to __________.
   
   38 727 197 690 106 73

4. _________ ___________ at __________. _______ will be __________.
   
   506 723 729 284 270

You can use the Code Book on the table, or use the word bank below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>722</td>
<td>Culper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>cannon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>enemy</td>
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<tr>
<td>197</td>
<td>folly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270</td>
<td>hazardous</td>
</tr>
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<td>284</td>
<td>it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>343</td>
<td>king</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>374</td>
<td>march</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>423</td>
<td>navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>522</td>
<td>Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>711</td>
<td>Gen. Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>723</td>
<td>Culper, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>727</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>729</td>
<td>Setauket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**ANSWERS:**

1. General Washington will go to New York in March.   
2. Culper in danger. Cover almost discovered by enemy.  
3. An attack on New York now is folly. Wait until cannon get to camp.  
4. Protect Culper, Jr at Setauket. It will be hazardous.

You can write your very own version of the Culper Code at home! Make a list of words that are important to you, give each word a number, and start writing secret messages!
The Culper Spies delivered intelligence from New York City to George Washington’s headquarters in Connecticut. Follow the maze to help them find the way!

1. Secret messages from New York spies leave the city.

2. After the information arrives in Setauket, Abraham Woodhull writes it down in secret code.

3. Anna Strong uses her clothesline to signal that information is ready to be picked up.

4. Caleb Brewster sees the signal, and uses his boat to pick up the intelligence.

5. The intelligence arrives at George Washington’s headquarters!
During the American Revolution, invisible ink was an important method of communication for spies on both sides. The British used two different types of invisible ink. The first could be made visible when exposed to heat, and the second was made visible when exposed to an acid. British intelligence officer Major John André instructed his agents to write an “F” for flame or an “A” for acid in the corner of a paper to indicate which should be used to expose a message.

General George Washington took the use of invisible ink a step further. He wanted an ink that could not be revealed using heat, making it harder to expose. James Jay, a British doctor and brother of American congressman John Jay, created an invisible ink system that used two chemicals. The first chemical was used to write the message, and the second chemical, when applied to the first, created a reaction that revealed the message. Washington encouraged his agents to write their invisible messages in the blank spaces of common books to make them less suspicious.
Make Invisible Ink!

The Lemon Juice Method
1. Squeeze the juice of half a lemon into a bowl and mix with a few drops of water.
2. Dip a cotton swab, quill, toothpick or paintbrush into the mixture and write a message on a white piece of paper.
3. Allow the lemon juice to dry completely.
4. Hold the paper over a well heated lightbulb or small flame until the message appears. Do not hold the paper too close to an open flame.

The Baking Soda Method
1. Mix ¼ cup baking soda and ¼ cup water.
2. Dip a cotton swab, quill, toothpick or paintbrush into the mixture.
3. Write a message on a white piece of paper and allow it to dry.
4. Dip a cotton swab into grape juice concentrate or any dark juice and paint it over the invisible message. Wait for it to appear.