



# CODES AND SECRETS!

Learn how to make your own secret codes and ciphers.

Throughout history people have been devising ways of sending messages that can only be understood by the person for whom they were meant.

The Ancient Greeks used a clever trick to pass messages during battles called a 'scytale'. Centuries later Queen Elizabeth I had a team of spies who became skilled at writing and deciphering hidden messages.

You can try out some of the ways for yourself. Just download one of our three activity sheets and have a go!

1. How to write messages like an Elizabethan spy is mostly for Key Stage 2 and above.

2. How to make a Scytale can be used by Key Stage 2 and (with a bit of adult support) by Key Stage 1.

3. How to write an Invisible message is suitable for Key Stage 1 and 2, but help will be needed from an adult to make the message reappear

You could even make up your own 21<sup>st</sup> century code using emojis - which are a sort of code as they have symbols to stand in for a word or idea!

What could this mean?: 😊 🍀