

TEACHERS:

HERE'S A FUN WAY TO ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS AS SPIES IN THE CAUSE FOR LIBERTY & TEACHER ABOUT THE CULPER SPY RING.

CULPER SPIES: YOUR SECRET ASSIGNMENT

During the American Revolution there was a need for both the British and Americans to send coded and secret messages to gain information about each other. This was done in several ways through different channels, but the **Culper Code** and **invisible ink** are two of the best known methods used.

General George Washington - known as **Agent 711** in the Culper Spy Ring – needed to know what the British troops were doing so he could make wise decisions so the colonials could defeat the British. Since the Continental Army was relatively small in number, many civilians were drawn into the Culper Ring under the guidance of **Major Benjamin Tallmadge**, known as “**John Bolton**” or **Agent 721** in the Culper Code. Other members of the ring included Anna Strong, who would hang a number of handkerchiefs and a black petticoat on her clothesline to signal which cove **Caleb Brewster (725)** would be waiting to meet **Abraham Woodhull (“Samuel Culper”, 722)**.

Tallmadge developed the Culper Code Book, a numerical code which allowed the spies to keep their messages and identities secret.

Your mission:

Using the Culper Code (see attached created by Mount Vernon), write your own spy letter to inform General George Washington about the British troops, arms, events or strategy, or the secret activities of other Culper spies.

Your second mission: Pretend you're General George Washington and decipher the coded message below that you just received from a Culper spy courier. It's urgent and needs your immediate attention! After reading the message, what do you do next?

72 / 38 / 5 / 344 / 711 / 283 / 731 / 736 / 48 / 87 / 506 /
711

Arnold / 283 / 642