Spies in the American Revolution



George Washington used military intelligence (spies) throughout the American Revolution. He authorized an elite reconnaissance unit (they reported the enemy's positions) known as Knowlton's Rangers in 1776 – that date is still honored in the U.S. Army Intelligence Seal!

Spies in the American Revolution Activities

Spy the Spy: Can you catch the spy in our midst? Match the famous Revolutionary War spy to their actions in the attached worksheet!

Culper Code: Between 1778 and 1783, the Culper Spy Ring sent coded messages back and forth. Use the attached code book to decode messages, just like the Culper Ring!

Ingredients	Instructions
 Lemon or Lemon Juice Sunlight or Heat Source (Lightbulb recommended) 	 Squeeze lemons to obtain their juice (or use bottled lemon juice) Dip the paintbrush or stick in the juice and use it as "ink" to write a message on paper Allow paper to dry Once it has dried and you are ready to read your message,
 Paper Paintbrush, stick, or cotton swab 	 hold the paper up to the heat source (lightbulb recommended) 5. The heat will cause the writing to darken to a pale brown, so your message can be read. 6. You can also experiment with other juices – white wine, orange or apple juice, and vinegar.

Invisible Ink: Write your own secret message and see it revealed!

Did you know? Washington used intelligence reports to help plan both the Crossing and the 10 Crucial Days, even referring to the "discouraging reports I have received from Colonel Reed of what might be expected from the operations below" in his December 25, 1776 dispatch written from McConkey's Ferry Inn.

