



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

CIPHER WHEEL WORKSHEET



Cipher wheels map a different Caesar encryption to each word. This confederate coding system made coded messages safer, and the wheel made decryption faster.

Key Word: BEE (1st word shifts 1, 2nd word shifts 4, 3rd word shifts 4, repeat.) Hint: writing the order number above the words helps you remember which shift you are solving. Fill in the chart.

PLAIN	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 st	B																									
2 nd	E																									
3 rd	E																									

Example. Decode Audrey Hepburn's motivation with a key word BEE.

OPUIJOH MW MQTSWWMFPI, UIF ASVH MXWIPJ TBZT, "M'Q TSWWMFPI."



Practice 1. Decode this quote from Abraham Lincoln, a CAT lover.

PLAIN	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 st	C																									
2 nd	A																									
3 rd	T																									

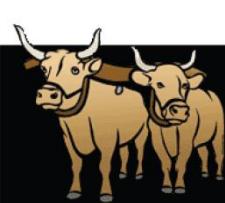
**VKU BETTER IXHIEX VJKPM YOU T HQQN, THEN HIXG AQWT
MOUTH TGW GTCUG ALL WHNUM.**



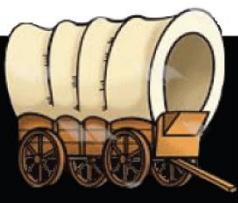
Practice 2. Decode this mapping advise by Lewis and Clark about going WEST.

PLAIN	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 st																										
2 nd																										
3 rd																										
4 th																										

**XAEJC WIPJ- JWDASFL FXTGL DWREJC XLI XJWWVGE
MH YDWNP CSYV GOF VHNKLX.**



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Extra Practice. Decode this quote from a 49er who did not find much GOLD.

PLAIN	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 st																										
2 nd																										
3 rd																										
4 th																										

GRR W SZAP IRU OY HC RPE KRPH, GROBK,
OG DZZY DV VUYYOHRK GC ESLE L IGT TCFUSH TE.

Challenge Practice. Write your own coded message. Choose a key word and encode a message. Copy the coded message below and give it to a friend to solve.



PLAIN	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 st																										
2 nd																										
3 rd																										

Key Word:

Message:

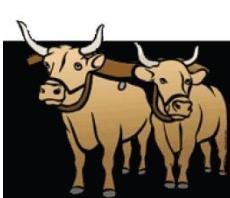
Coded Message:

Fold here and give to a friend to solve.

Hint to solve code:

Coded Message:

PLAIN	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1 st																										
2 nd																										
3 rd																										



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