

Secret Code Activities for Kids

A mix of beginner ciphers and code-breaking puzzles

ANSWER KEY

Grades 1–5 • 15 minutes • Beginner • Answer key included

Become a secret agent! Use the code system described in each question to encode or decode the message. Hints are included on the answer key.

1. Use the Pigpen cipher grid to draw the symbol for the letter A

Answer: Bottom-left corner box (no dot)

Hint: A is in the first position of the first grid

2. Write your first name using the A=1, B=2, C=3 code

Answer: (varies by student)

Hint: Find each letter's position in the alphabet

3. Decode this backwards message: TERCES REPUS

Answer: SUPER SECRET

Hint: Read the letters from right to left

4. Decode: 19-16-25 (A=1 code)

Answer: SPY

Hint: S=19, P=16, Y=25

5. Write HIDE using the Skip-a-Letter cipher (A=C, B=D, C=E ...)

Answer: JKFG

Hint: Move each letter forward by 2 positions

6. Mirror decode: bOOK (read in a mirror)

Answer: BOOK

Hint: Some letters look the same in a mirror!

7. Decode the message: 19-20-1-18 (numbers = letter positions)

Answer: STAR

Hint: Convert each number to its alphabet letter

8. Make a secret code name using the Reverse Alphabet (A=Z, B=Y, C=X ...)

Answer: (varies by student)

Hint: Z becomes A, Y becomes B, and so on

9. Crack the code: KHOOR ZRUOG (Caesar shift of 3, shift back)

Answer: HELLO WORLD

Hint: Move each letter 3 positions back in the alphabet

10. Decode: 3-15-4-5 3-18-1-3-11-5-18 (A=1 code)

Answer: CODE CRACKER

Hint: Convert each number to its matching letter