

# Send a Secret Message

A science activity related to *The Scarlet Stocking Spy* by Trinka Noble

Read *Spy Letters of the American Revolution* -

<http://www.si.umich.edu/SPIES/methods-ink.html>

1. Go to Kidzworld - <http://www.kidzworld.com/site/p601.htm>
2. Select three methods of writing a secret message using ink.
3. Write the same message with each method. Be sure to label each sample. Follow the method John André gave to the British spies.
4. Allow the messages to dry.

Can you detect there is a secret message? If yes, what are the clues?

5. Reveal the hidden messages.
6. Conduct a survey of your class.

Which method hides the message the best?

Which method was the easiest way to reveal the message?

7. Make a Chart displaying the results.  
Learn how to make a chart at <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/graphing/>

Did you know?

The Second Continental Congress created the Committee of Secret Correspondence in 1775. It was charged with gathering intelligence and "corresponding with our friends in Great Britain and other parts of the world" to gain information that would be helpful to the American cause and to forge alliances with foreign countries. Benjamin Franklin was one of the original members of this committee.

[http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin/13\\_world\\_spies.html](http://www.pbs.org/benfranklin/13_world_spies.html)