

# Lynchburg Mathathon



## Secret Messages

3 - 5th Grade

When Julius Caesar needed to send secret messages to his generals and proconsuls, he used this same method to encrypt his letters.



Step 1. Choose any box other than the first and write out the alphabet. When you get to the last box, wrap around to the first and continue. This is the key used to encipher and decipher your message, don't lose it!



Key																									
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



Step 2. Write a message for a friend in cleartext (plain English).



Step 3. Use your key to encrypt your cleartext message. Pass this message and your key to a friend and see if they can decipher your message.

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Make a more permanent Caesar Cipher by cutting out the two circles below and pinning them together through the center with a brass fastener. If your friend also has a Caesar Cipher, you can simply tell them how many rotations to make to decipher your message.

