

In the Spring of 1942, Commander Joseph Rochefort and his team of codebreakers at Station Hypo at Pearl Harbor, O'ahu cracked the Japanese secret communications code. Their efforts discovered that the Japanese target was Midway, a northwestern Hawaiian island with a US military airfield. Washington D.C., however, did not believe that Japan would select this place, and discredited the findings. In an effort to prove that the attack was not only correct but inevitable, Rochefort famously sent a dummy code stating that Midway's forces were low on fresh water. His theory that Midway was the next target was proven, prompting Admiral Chester Nimitz to prepare a secret counter-strike later known as the Battle of Midway.

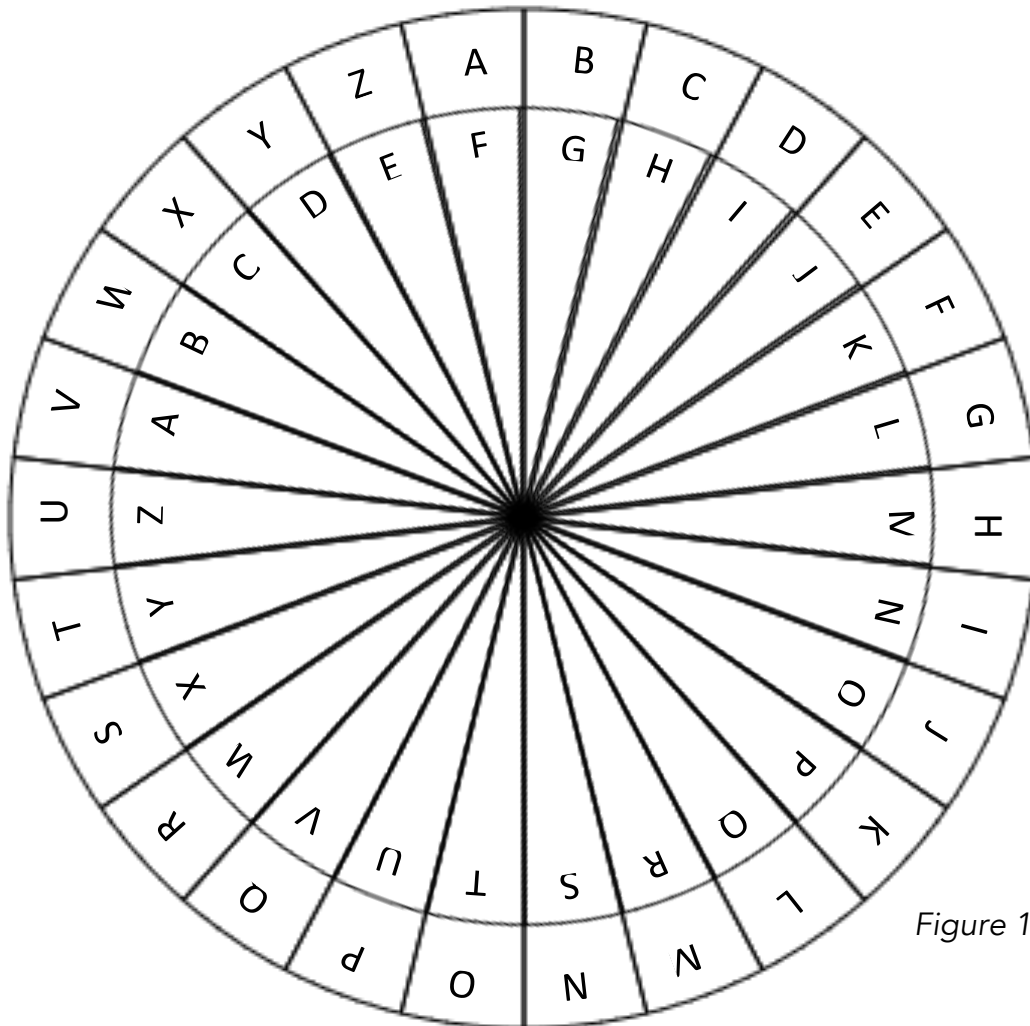


Figure 1

## WHAT IS A CODE?

A code is a hidden message used to keep important secrets hidden from those whom are not allowed to know them. Coding is a centuries old practice used by cultures and militaries all over the world.

## HOW DOES THIS KIND OF CODE WORK?

There are many ways to encode a secret message. This cipher (fig. 1) uses the English alphabet as its foundation. Each of the 26 letters can be replaced with one of the other 25 remaining letters. A "key" is made or memorized which records which letters are being replaced with with the other. This will create a new alphabet with which to code a message.

# Coding Agents



You are the newest encryption agent at Station Hypo on the Island of O'ahu. Admiral Nimitz of the United States Navy has ordered your team to create a new code for the United States to keep our messages secret from the enemy. While LCDR Rochefort and his team crack the Japanese code, it is your job to make sure that the US's plans are impossible to figure out!

Directions: Use the grid below to create your own cipher. Follow the directions to develop a code, create a message, and send it to your friends!

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	

2. Write that letter in the box below the given letter "A" in the second row.

1. Select any letter in the English alphabet OTHER THAN the letter "A." (Tip: Picking a letter further away from the letter "A" will create a more complicated code.)

Ex. We will use the letter "K"

Ex.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
K							

3. Complete the sequence of the English alphabet by writing the next letters in the remaining boxes.

Ex.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R