

## Past Rebel Lines



*Think spies and the American Revolution, and what comes to mind? Likely Benedict Arnold, a name synonymous with treason in American popular memory—but Revolutionary-era spying didn't begin or end with Arnold. Decide whether the following statements about spies in the Revolution are true or false.*

1. Only Patriots knew how to create effective invisible ink, allowing them to write concealed messages that only the letters' recipients knew how to reveal.

True

False

2. Spies concealed sensitive letters in quills, canteens, buttons, bullets, and other small objects.

True

False

3. Patriots do not seem to have known how to create or read masked (or Cardan) letters—letters that could be read only when a special template was placed over the text.

True

False

4. Spies did not use codenames in correspondence during the American Revolution. They wrote names out in full, gave them as initials, or left them out entirely.

True

False

Sources:

Central Intelligence Agency. "Revolutionary War." October 25, 2007. <https://www.cia.gov/kids-page/6-12th-grade/operation-history/revolutionary-war.html> (accessed September 10, 2010).

Clements Library, University of Michigan. *Spy Letters of the American Revolution*. May 13, 1999. <http://www2.si.umich.edu/spies/index-gallery.html> (accessed September 10, 2010).

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>