

# Guide: Unit 3 Spies



This unit introduces children to the practice of spying during and after the British Civil Wars. It demonstrates the role played by women as secret agents. It also helps build a picture of the seventeenth-century world.

## Overview of Resources

### Introduction

3

Teachers' Notes  
'Civil-War Spies'

### Shorter activities

3.2

#### Write Like a Spy

Write messages in code and learn how to keep them safe with paper locks.

3.3

#### Civil War Spies Boardgame

Choose your spy and their equipment. Can you reach your destination safely?

3.4

#### Spy Identity Generator

Send yourself back in time. Become a Royalist spy and create your own spy file.

### Longer 1- 2 lesson activities

3.5

#### Royal Rescue

Recruit a spy ring and try to break the King out of prison.

3.6

#### Parliamentarian Postmaster

Open letters in your post bag. Can you spot the ones sent by Royalist spies?



### National Curriculum Learning Objectives

- *learn to construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.*
- *understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources*



## 3.2 Write like a spy

These slides guide children to write a message in code. Two different methods for letter locking are demonstrated. Children can swap, open and decode messages.

**UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD Spies!**

**Write like a spy!**

Learn secret codes and letter locking



**Message 1**

In your book write a message to send to another spy.

Your message must have only 3 or 4 words.

You can copy one of these messages if you like, or make up your own.

*Meet at the tree.*

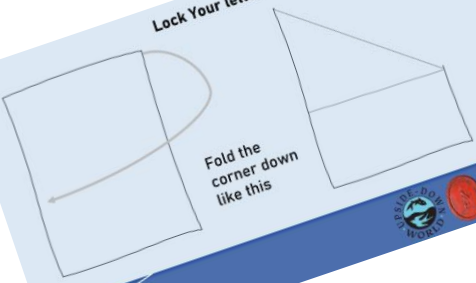
*Are you well?*

*Run away quickly!*

*King arriving Friday*

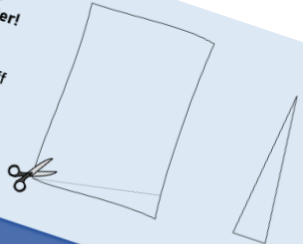
**Lock Your letter!**

Fold the corner down like this



**Message 2 Lock your letter!**

Cut a long triangular piece off the bottom of your message like this. This will become your paper lock.



**3.5d**  
Secret ciphers  
This resource is used for all the coding activities in this unit

**Secret ciphers**

Use these ciphers to write and crack coded messages!

Substitution cipher	
A	B
B	C
C	D
D	E
E	F
F	G
G	H
H	I
I	J
J	K
K	L
L	M
M	N
N	O
O	P
P	Q
Q	R
R	S
S	T
T	U
U	V
V	W
W	X
X	Y
Y	Z
Z	A

Interogram cipher	
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
27	28
29	30
31	32
33	34
35	36
37	38
39	40
41	42
43	44
45	46
47	48
49	50
51	52
53	54
55	56
57	58
59	60
61	62
63	64
65	66
67	68
69	70
71	72
73	74
75	76
77	78
79	80
81	82
83	84
85	86
87	88
89	90
91	92
93	94
95	96
97	98
99	100

## 3.4 Spy Identity Generator

**Spies 3.4**

Choose a title, then one name from the shaded columns and one name from the white column to create your **Seventeenth-Century Spy Identity**

Title	First Name	Surname
Lord	Ralph	Jane Clayton
Lady	Walter	Isabel Fitzwood
Mistress	Kathryn	Agneshaw
Mr	Thomas	Barfoot
	Edward	Sibel Longe
	Rosalind	Anne Kershaw
	Amphrey	Catherine Throckmorton
	Valerius	Elizabeth Hyde
	Nicholas	Mary Prestwich
	Marmaduke	Margaret Latch
	Lancelot	Brigford Scrope
	Leifbert	Susan Digby
	Osvald	Rosamund Winder
	Edmund	Ruth Broadshaw
	Bartholomew	Levy Bell
	Bartholomew	Norrietta Killgrew

**Top Secret**

**Spy File**

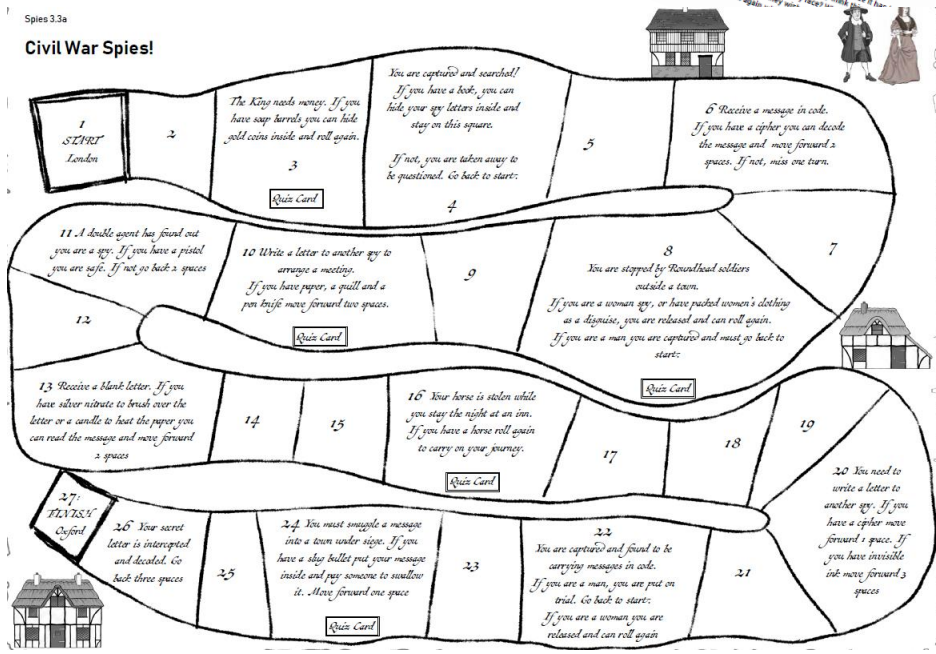
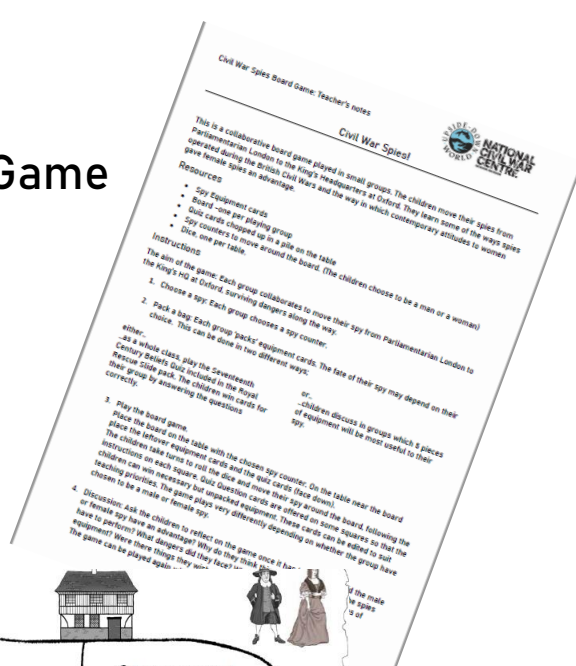
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Height: \_\_\_\_\_  
Further information: \_\_\_\_\_

Children choose a seventeenth-century name and draw over the lines on the illustration to create a picture of themselves in civil-war era clothes. A photograph of their face could be stuck on to complete the image!

# 3.3 Civil-War Spies Board Game

## Teacher's Notes

### 3.3a Game Board

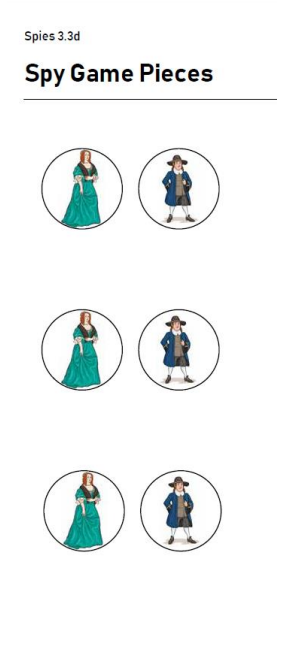
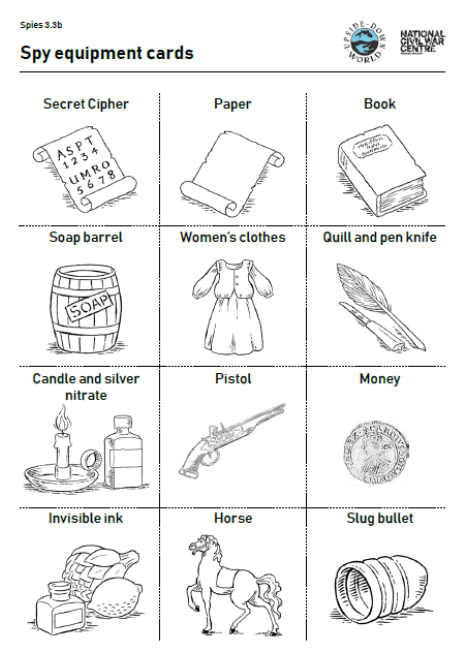


Children select a spy game piece and some equipment cards. The game plays differently depending on their choices. Extra equipment can be won by answering quiz questions correctly. These can be customised. Children learn that it was easier for women to navigate the seventeenth-century wartime world safely. Therefore women made very effective spies.

### 3.3b Equipment cards

### 3.3c Quiz Cards

### 3.3d Game Pieces



# 3.5 Royal Rescue



This PowerPoint slide pack introduces spy operations during the civil war, including the use of secret codes. Children plan the King's escape from prison and learn why women made effective spies. This activity is adaptable to include either one or two escape plans as required. The PDFs below support this activity.

## 3.5a and b Spy Selection Sheet



Spies 11

**Spy selection**

Read the spy files. Put a tick or a cross under each heading. Add notes for each person.

Name	Can Travel secretly	Won't be suspected	Can talk to rich or poor people	Can hide money or secret messages	Notes
Jane Whorewood					
Elizabeth Wheeler					
Margaret Smith					
John Atkins					
Ramshackle Huntinghorn					
Nathaniel Drudge					

I think these people would make the best spies... Because...

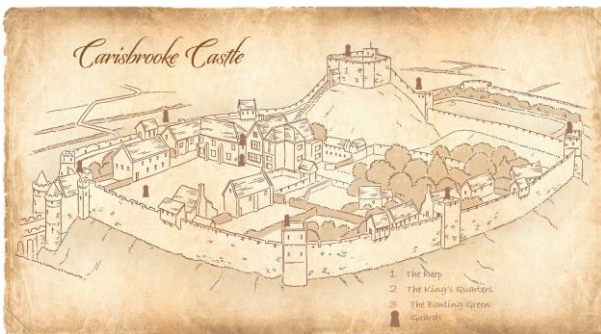
1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

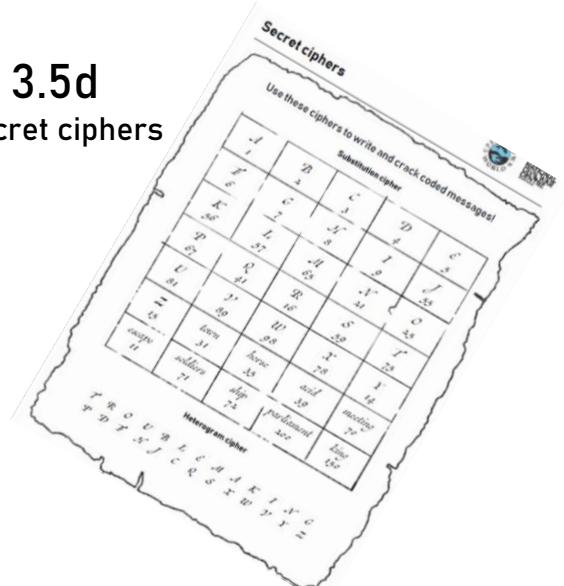
Children choose their spies using the spy files. This resource is provided in both colour and black and white versions.

## 3.5c Carisbrooke Castle plan



Children use this map of Carisbrooke Castle to help them plan the King's escape.

## 3.5d Secret ciphers



These ciphers can be used to code and decode messages. The substitution cipher is used in this activity.

## 3.6 Parliamentary Postmaster

I am John Thurloe, Spymaster for His Highness, Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell.

The tyrant King Charles is dead.

His son, Charles Stuart, is in France

Royalist supporters are plotting to help Charles Stuart return and become King.

Click on the letter you want to open. Find out if it was written by a spy!

Nicholas Acton, 22 Broom Street, Newark, Nottinghamshire

Anthony Hester, Apothecary shop, 19 Cross Street, London

Edward Smith, 18 Holgate Street, London

Thomas Henson, Street

Henry Hopwood, 7 Ash Lane, Abarstoke, Gopport

Finished opening letters

This writer has found a clever way of sending an almost blank sheet of paper through the post.

The spy is pretending to send some glasses for a customer to try on.

Dear Nicholas, Try on these spectacles and let me know if they fit.

This 'brother' is sending his 'sister' a bottle of 'medicine'. Or is he??

The medicine is a bottle of silver nitrate. If rubbed over the spaces between the lines it reveals a secret message very poisonous!

The writer of this letter is Charles Stuart!

13 letters is exactly half the alphabet. If the spy puts the other 13 letters under the heterogram they can make a cipher, or secret code, like this...

t r o u b l e m a k i n g  
p d f h j c q s x w v y z

If the spy wants to write p they write t. What will they write instead of g?

This immersive and interactive PowerPoint slide pack demonstrates some of the ways that spies communicated during the Interregnum. Children are recruited as postmasters by Cromwell's spy-master, John Thurloe. Working in groups, they open letters in a post bag, decide whether or not the messages are suspicious and report their findings. Finally, the secrets of the post bag are revealed. This activity can be adapted to suit teacher preference and the needs of particular groups. Each group can be given a different letter to work on or groups can work on a range of letters. Downloadable PDF letters are provided and can these be wrapped. 'Sealing' the letters with red plasticine makes them look real!

### 3.6a-e Postbag letters

Parliamentarian Postmaster Letter 1

Dear Nicholas

Try on these spectacles and let me know if they fit.

Edward Smith,  
18 Holgate Street,  
London

My dearest love,  
I can hardly wait to see you again. The hours without you seem so long. I look at your portrait every day, but it is not the same as seeing your sweet face.

Father sends his love. He is well but becoming rather deaf. Yesterday Tore Moxham called at the door with a tray of fish and eggs. He thought she was trying to sell him fish! He shouted "I might be old but I still have the sense I was born with!"

We bought 2 fish and 6 eggs and showed them to him but he still matters about being taken advantage of in his old age. It is only 3 days until we meet again and yet it feels like forever. I will meet you under the oak tree by the river at noon.

Your devoted friend  
Bridget Lane