

Name _____

The Zimmermann Telegram

Decoding a Message

In substitution codes, the letters of the plaintext (message to be put into secret form) are replaced by other letters, numbers, or symbols. In this code system, each letter of the alphabet and each of the numbers from 1 to 9 appears in the matrix of the grid. Each letter in the grid is replaced by two letters in the coded message. The first letter in the message is from the **vertical axis** of the grid, and the second letter is from its **horizontal axis**. For example, if "DG" were the first two letters to decipher in a cryptogram, you would find the letter "D" on the vertical axis and the letter "G" on the horizontal axis. Trace them across the grid to their intersection at the letter "A" in the plaintext.

To decode the fictitious message in the cryptogram, begin by grouping each set of two letters starting with the first two letters (FG) and continuing through the message. The code letters are arbitrarily arranged in groups of four letters. Some letter pairs will carry over from one line to the next. As you locate each letter in the grid, you should write that letter above the pair of code letters to which it corresponds. There are no punctuation marks in the telegram, so your teacher may need to help you in clarifying the message.

Decode the Cryptogram using the grid. Then using the grid, write your own cyptogram.

Cryptogram

FGAF AAV XADG AVXV ADAD DVDD DVGA
VXVD XDVD DFAF DXGX GDDG AVFD VX
VAAF XGDA DXVD DXDA VXXV
AAAV DAVX DAVV GDDX AVDG DXGX VXVD VVVV AFDX AVAF VXDX VDFD AF
XAVV VFAV AFVV VVVA DGXV AXAF DGGX FXAF AVVA DGDF VFAX VDVX XFDA VXGD VAAF XGDA DXVD

VFAV AFVF DGAV AFVX VDAX AFDG XDAF AFVA AADG VVVV XVVD DFVV GDVD
AVVX DFVD VXDA DXAF

AAAF AVDF VVVX VDAV FGFG

XFDG VVGD DADF FXVX VDDF FDDX

Your answer

Your own cryptogram

Grid

	A	D	F	G	V	X
A	B	2	E	5	R	L
D	I	9	N	A	1	C
F	3	D	4	F	6	G
G	7	H	8	J	0	K
V	M	O	P	Q	S	T
X	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Grid

	A	D	F	G	V	X
A	B	2	E	5	R	L
D	I	9	N	A	1	C
F	3	D	4	F	6	G
G	7	H	8	J	0	K
V	M	O	P	Q	S	T
X	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Grid

	A	D	F	G	V	X
A	B	2	E	5	R	L
D	I	9	N	A	1	C
F	3	D	4	F	6	G
G	7	H	8	J	0	K
V	M	O	P	Q	S	T
X	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

