

# SECRET SPARTAN MESSAGES

HOW DID THE SPARTANS STOP SNEAKY SPIES?



# WAR!

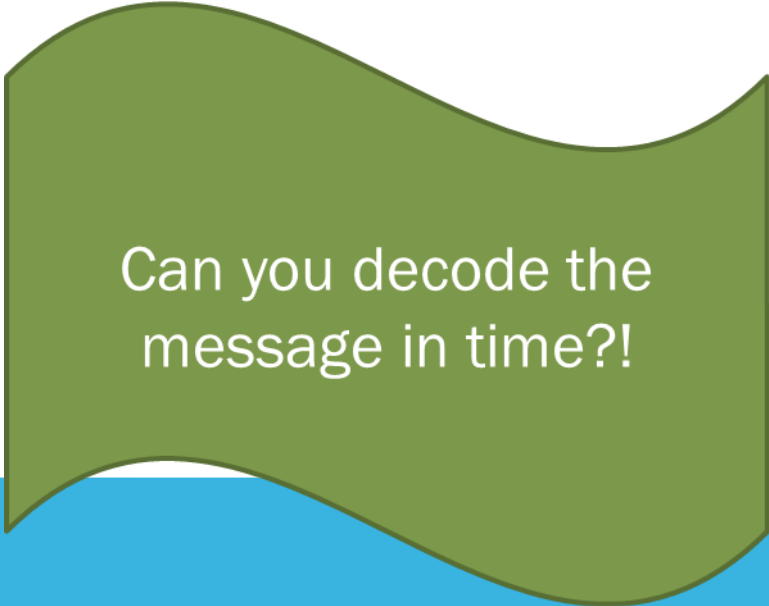
- Messengers had a very risky job during the war. They were charged with the task of taking important messages to Captains and high ranking soldiers across large spaces of land.
- This was a very important job, as information about the enemy or movements of soldiers could easily change the end of a war or battle.
- This meant that messengers were often ambushed, and this could lead to thousands of soldiers being at risk if secret plans were decoded.
- However, the Spartans came up with a very crafty idea....

I have a cunning plan....



# HIDDEN MESSAGES....

- On your tables are hidden messages.
- Can you work as a table to establish how to decode it?
- What could the message say?
- How has it been hidden?

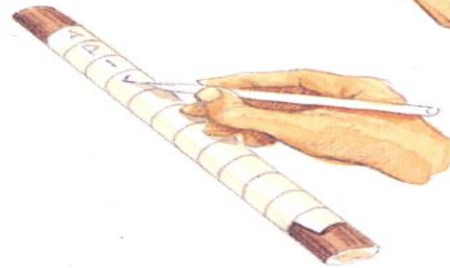


Can you decode the  
message in time?!

## SECRET MESSAGES

During the war between Athens and Sparta (see page 9), the Spartans had a clever way of writing secret messages.

**1** A narrow strip of paper was wound around a wooden stick.



**2** The message was written in a line down the paper.

**3** The paper was then unwound and the blank parts of the strip were filled in with jumbled-up letters.



**4** The message could only be read by someone who had a stick that was the same thickness as the original one. When the strip was twisted around the stick, the letters lined up and the message reappeared.

# MAKE YOUR OWN MESSAGE!

- 1) Find a pencil, pen or colouring pencil to wrap your paper around.
  - 2) Wrap your paper around the pencil, making sure you have enough space to write your message.
  - 3) Moving down the paper, write the letters of your code.
  - 4) Remove the paper, filling in the gaps with jumbled letters.
  - 5) You should only be able to read the message with the correct thickness of pencil or pen!
  - 6) Challenge a partner to decode your message!
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