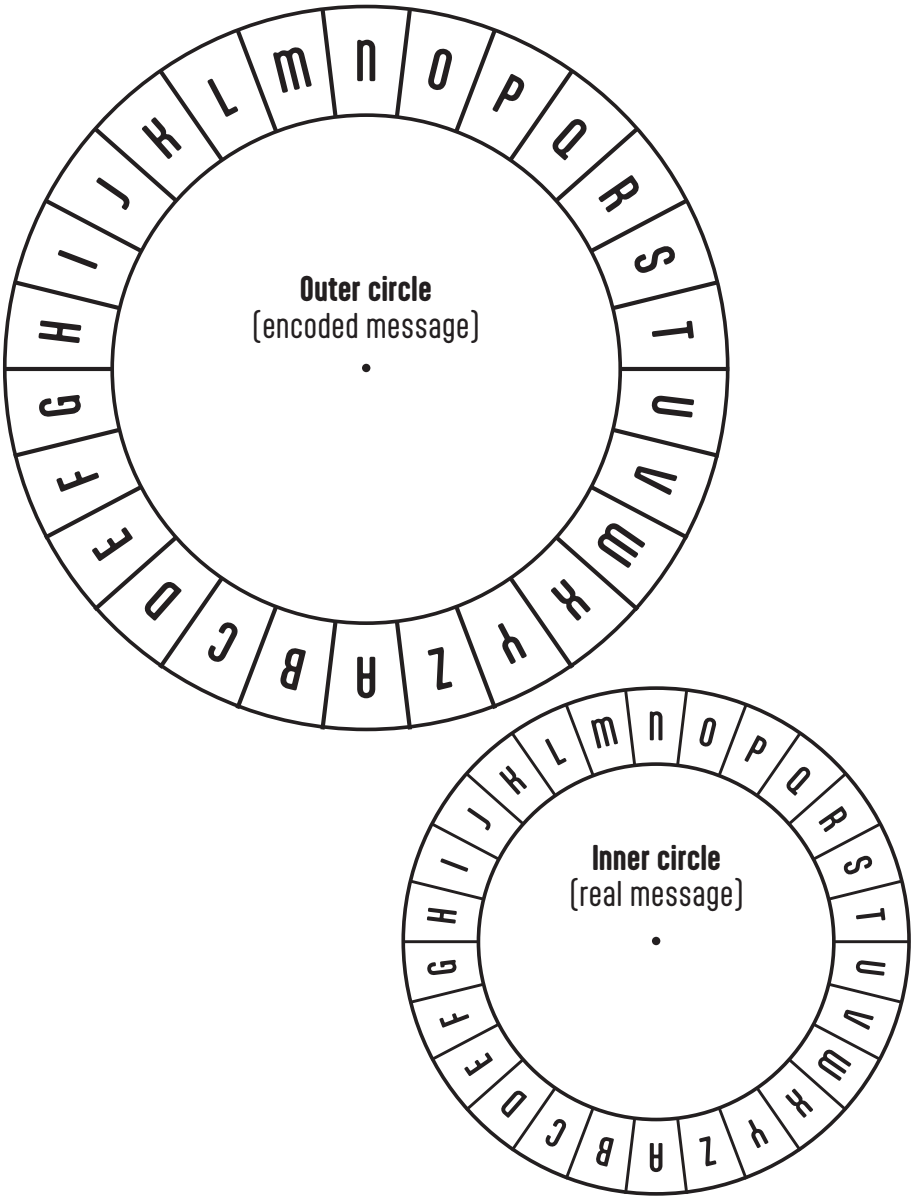
Cipher Wheel CHALLENGE



What Is a Cipher?

A cipher is a way to hide a message by shifting letters a certain number of places.

For example: With a shift of 3, A → D, B → E, and C → F.

Build Your Cipher Wheel

1. Cut out the two circles below.
2. Stack the small circle on top of the large circle, lining up the centers.
3. Poke a hole through the center of both circles.
4. Connect the circles with a brad fastener or paper clip so they can rotate.

Encode a Secret Message

1. Try a shift of 5! Rotate the inner circle until A lines up with F.
2. Find a letter on the outer circle.
3. Look at the letter directly across from it on the small circle. That's your secret letter!
4. Repeat for each letter in your message.

Try It: Encode HELLO with a shift of 5.

H E L L O

__ __ __ __ __

Crack the Code: Secret STEM Message

Someone gives you the coded message below. Can you figure out the shift and decode it? Try different shifts until the message becomes a sentence, then write it below!

ZALT JYLHALZ AOL MBABKL!