



Official Detective Starter Kit

A Message from Headquarters

Welcome, New Detective!

You are holding this kit because you have what it takes to be a great investigator: a curious mind, sharp eyes, and a spirit for adventure. The Alex & Meg Detective Agency is always looking for new recruits, and we believe you're perfect for the job.

This kit contains the essential tools you'll need to start your training. Inside, you'll find everything required to solve puzzles, decode secret messages, and collect important evidence. Every mystery is a puzzle waiting to be solved, and your journey starts now.

Your very first assignment is simple, but crucial: **Make it official.**

Good luck, Detective. We're counting on you.

Yours in mystery,

The Alex & Meg Detective Agency



A note for the Supervising Agent (that's you, Mom & Dad!): This kit is designed to spark creativity, critical thinking, and hours of screen-free fun. We recommend printing on cardstock for extra durability, especially for the badge (cut on the outside of the outer line of the badge to the right) and code wheel. Let the investigation begin!



TOP SECRET

Alex & Meg's Detective Agency

Coded Message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z	a	b	c	d	e

INSTRUCTIONS: The thief left a secret message!
Use the Cipher Key above to decode their secret plan. Find the code letter in the bottom row and write down the REAL letter from the top row.



Secret Code

y	m	j		h	q	z	j		n	x		z	s	i	j	w		y	m	j		h	t	z	h	m

r	j	j	y		r	j		f	y		y	m	j		x	j	h	w	j	y		m	n	i	j	t	z	y



Message from Alex & Meg



j	a	j	w	d		r	d	x	y	j	w	d		m	f	x		f		x	t	q	z	y	n	t	s

How to Use Your Official Alex & Meg Code-Breaker Wheel

1. Choose a Secret Key: To write a secret message, you and your fellow detective must first agree on a secret "Key Letter." Let's say you choose the letter G.

2. Set Your Wheel: Spin the inner wheel so that the letter 'A' on the inner wheel lines up with your Key Letter (G) on the outer wheel.

3. To Write a Secret Message (Encode):

Find your real letter on the OUTER wheel.

The letter directly below it on the INNER wheel is your secret code letter.

Example: To code the word CASE, with the key set to G:

Find C on the outer wheel. The inner wheel letter is W.

Find A on the outer wheel. The inner wheel letter is U.

Find S on the outer wheel. The inner wheel letter is M.

Find E on the outer wheel. The inner wheel letter is Y.

So, CASE becomes WUMY.

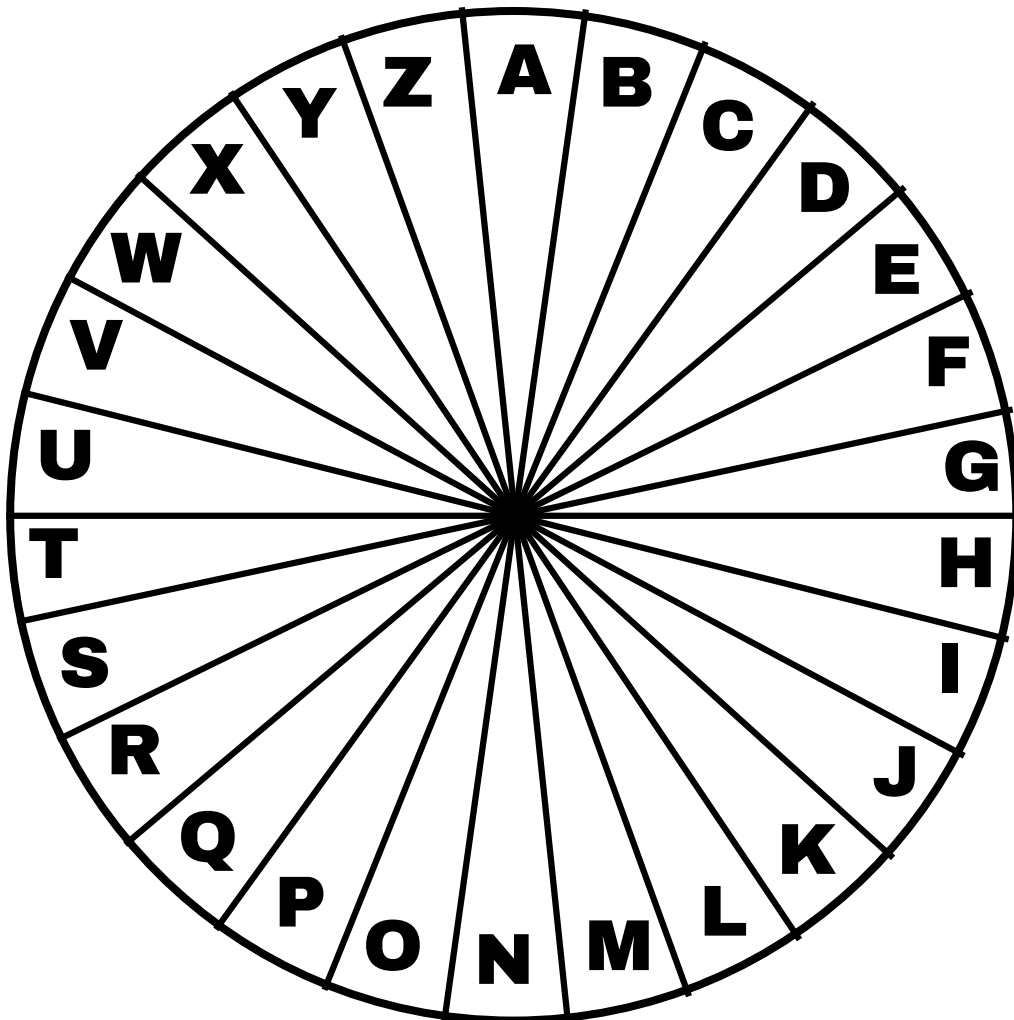
4. To Read a Secret Message (Decode):

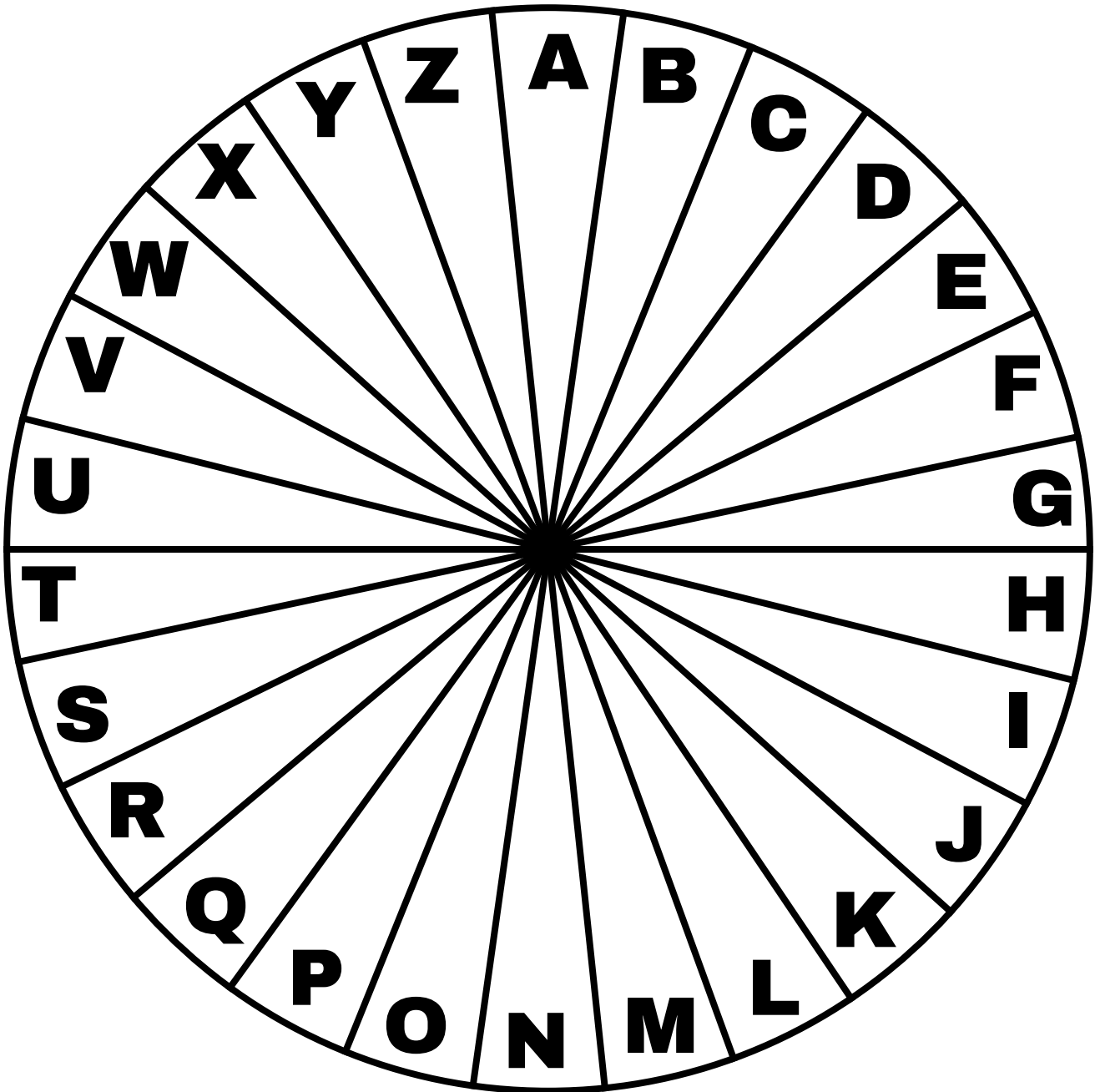
Make sure your wheel is set to the correct Key Letter (line up inner 'A' with the Key Letter).

Find the code letter on the INNER wheel.

The letter directly above it on the OUTER wheel is the real letter!

How to Assemble Cipher Wheel: Print the two circle cipher wheels. One circle is larger than the other. Cut out both circles. Place the smaller circle on top of the larger circle. Attach the two circles with a paper fastener so the inner wheel can spin freely.



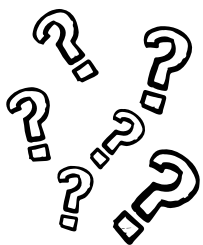




Coded Message



Decoded Message



OFFICIAL TRAINING MANUAL: HOW TO COLLECT FINGERPRINTS

TOP SECRET - LEVEL 1 CLEARANCE REQUIRED

Welcome to the Forensic Division, Detective! You are about to learn one of the most important skills in investigation: lifting fingerprints. These invisible clues can help you solve any mystery. Choose one of the official agency methods below.

A Note for the Supervising Agent (That's You, Parent!): Both methods are safe and use common household items. The process is a fantastic, hands-on science lesson in disguise. For best results, work on a protected surface like a newspaper or placemat.

Method 1: The Classic Graphite Technique

This is the go-to method for detectives in the field. It works best for lifting prints that a "suspect" leaves behind on a smooth, non-porous surface (like a glass, doorknob, or shiny plastic).

Your Forensic Kit:

- * A soft graphite pencil (#2 school pencil is perfect)
- * A small piece of paper
- * Clear adhesive tape
- * Your Fingerprint Collection Card

Procedure:

1. Create Your Graphite "Ink" Pad: On the small piece of paper, scribble a thick, dark patch with your pencil. Go over it several times until it's covered in loose graphite powder.
2. "Ink" the Finger: Ask your subject to press and roll their fingertip firmly in the graphite patch to get a good coating.
3. Leave the Clue: Have the subject press their graphite-coated finger firmly onto a smooth surface (like a clean glass). Tell them to press straight down and lift straight up without smudging.
4. Lift the Print: Carefully place a piece of clear tape over the fingerprint. Press down and rub gently to ensure the entire print sticks to the tape.
5. Secure the Evidence: Slowly peel the tape off the surface. The fingerprint will have transferred to the tape! Stick the tape onto one of the boxes on your Fingerprint Collection Card.

OFFICIAL TRAINING MANUAL: HOW TO COLLECT FINGERPRINTS

Method 2: The Cocoa Powder Dusting Method

This advanced technique is what forensic experts use to find prints at a crime scene. It works best on light-colored surfaces (like a white plate or countertop).

Your Forensic Kit:

- * Unsweetened cocoa powder (for baking)
- * A small, very soft brush (a makeup brush or soft paintbrush is perfect)
- * Clear adhesive tape
- * Your Fingerprint Collection Card

Procedure:

1. Leave the Clue: Have your subject press their finger firmly on a clean, light-colored surface. The natural oils from their skin will leave an invisible print.
2. Dust for Prints: Lightly sprinkle a small amount of cocoa powder over the area where the print was left.
3. Reveal the Clue: Using your soft brush, very gently sweep away the extra powder. The cocoa will stick to the oils of the fingerprint, magically revealing the pattern!
4. Lift the Print: Carefully place a piece of clear tape over the revealed print. Press down gently.
5. Secure the Evidence: Slowly peel the tape off the surface. The cocoa print will now be stuck to the tape! Place it onto your Fingerprint Collection Card to log your evidence.

Congratulations, Detective! You have successfully collected forensic evidence. Now, who does it belong to?

OFFICIAL DETECTIVE FINGERPRINT COLLECTION CARD

A detective's most valuable skill is careful observation. Every fingerprint tells a unique story. Use this card to log the evidence you collect during your investigation. Remember to handle all evidence with care.

Evidence File#: _____

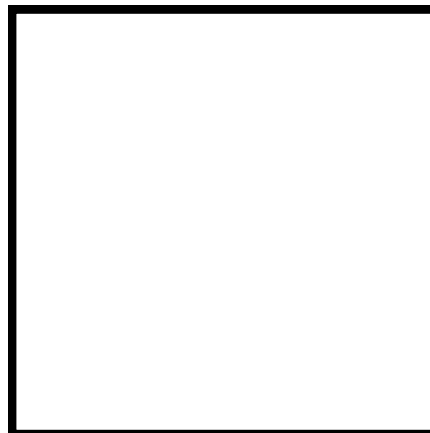
Subject's Name: _____

(The Person whose fingerprint you are collecting.)

Date & Time Collected _____

Location of Print _____

(r.g., "Kitchen glass," "Doorknob," "Cookie jar lid")



PLACE LIFTED PRINT HERE

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES:

(Secure the tape with fingerprint inside this box.)

Evidence File#: _____

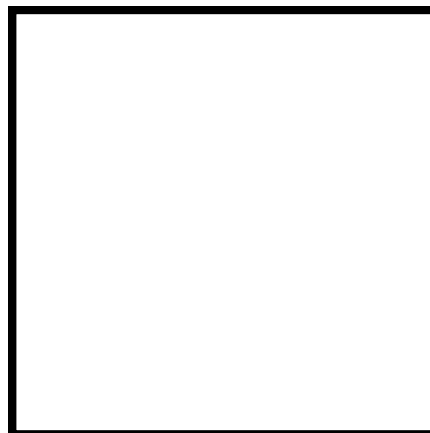
Subject's Name: _____

(The Person whose fingerprint you are collecting.)

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PLACE LIFTED PRINT HERE

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES:

(Secure the tape with fingerprint inside this box.)

