

BOOMbox at Home

Scytale

Scytale is an ancient form of encoding messages, thought to be invented by the Romans. This simple, low-tech encryption technique still works today. Try it for yourself!



Supplies

- paper
- scissors
- tape
- pencil or pen
- a tube or cylinder (for example, paper towel or toilet paper roll, soup can, or soda can)

Instructions

- Create a long strip of paper by cutting a sheet of paper into strips and taping the strips together.
- Wrap the strip of paper around the cylinder. Clip or tape it in place.
- Write your message straight across, with one letter per loop. When you reach the end of the tube, start another row of text below the first.
- Remove the paper from the tube. You can no longer read the message!
- Pass the strip of paper on to your friend. When your friend wraps the paper around a cylinder of the same size, they'll be able to read your message.

Send a photo of your project to mycreation@skokielibrary.info and we may feature it on social media.

