

PRINCE *of* PEACE SmartLab®

WEEK 6: PIGPEN CIPHER

Your Challenge:

Use a pigpen cipher to decode the secret message in this picture, which will reveal your next challenge.

Background: A cipher is a special code used to disguise a message. The pigpen cipher replaces each letter with a symbol, which is part of a larger grid. The Freemasons used this type of cipher frequently to record and protect the history of their organization, which is why it is commonly known as the Freemason's cipher.

Materials Needed: Paper, pencil

Considerations: As you make a cipher, consider these questions:

1. How would you use a code to send a secret message?
2. What other grids or geometric shapes could you use to create a pigpen cipher?
3. How would you stealthily communicate the cipher to help the recipient decipher the 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				
<	^	v	>	<	^				