



The essence of espionage is communication. Spies gather information, or intelligence, pass it to the right people, and others analyze and communicate the intelligence. A small mistake in how a message is enciphered or the interpretation of a message can have disastrous results. Successful intelligence officers often have a strong command of multiple languages, are able to express themselves both clearly and covertly, and understand the subtext of self expression. Perhaps that is why many have become great novelists! Until fairly recently, the only way the public learned about the hidden world of espionage was through novels—because real events were classified. The International Spy Museum’s goal is to help separate fact from fiction in espionage. The Museum provides opportunities to hook students on everything from storytelling to the subtleties of human language.

IN THE MUSEUM

Exhibit areas in **bold**. See map for location.

Language as Code—**Secrets and Subtext**



At the entrance to **Earliest Espionage**, study the replica of the Rosetta Stone. This famous tablet illustrates the power and exclusivity of language. In civilizations where literacy is a luxury of the wealthy, written language becomes a code that separates and defines people. While the Rosetta Stone was intended as a presentation of three different languages, its discovery and eventual decipherment set the stage for anthropologists and linguists to enter the world of code and cipher breaking. In **Code Breaking**, test your ability to use the code developed by Navajo soldiers in WWII. This code was based on their native language and was never broken.



To discuss with students:

- How are written and spoken languages like code? How do they differ from each other? What kinds of tools do you need to decipher unfamiliar written and spoken language?
- What similarities and differences can you find among the written languages on the Rosetta Stone?



Codes and ciphers were popularized by royal spies during the 1500s. In **Earliest Espionage**, consider the stories of Spies at Court and examine the many types of codes and ciphers invented during that time.

To discuss with students:

- What's the difference between a code and a cipher?
- Codes rely on hiding secret information amidst public information. How does this relate to the use of subtext and hidden meanings in document analysis?

Spy Literature—Going Beyond Bond



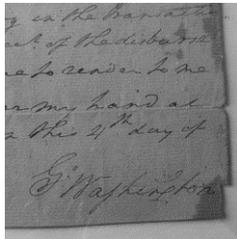
Many famous authors were once spies who turned their facts into fiction. Check out the **Library** to see the hidden life of W. Somerset Maugham, Daniel Defoe, and others. One of the most famous authors of spy fiction is Ian Fleming. His James Bond stories shaped and continue to shape the way in which readers view spies and spying.

James Bond and other spy classics are often transformed into spy films. During the Cold War, this was a very popular genre. In **Spy Games**, take a look at the classic and pulp fiction that became films and TV programming in the 1960s. Popular television shows like *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* also generated spin-off books.

To discuss with students:

- Why is the spy story so powerful?
- What makes a good spy story?
- How can popular novels affect the way we view the world?

The Art of the Letter—Primary Document Analysis

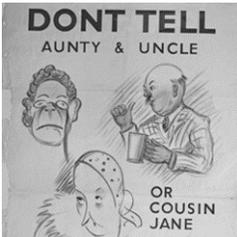


In the **Library**, students can examine a letter written by General George Washington in 1777. While Washington's letter to Nathaniel Sackett is short, its implications for the development of intelligence networks in America are large.

To discuss with students:

- What is General Washington requesting?
- Why do you think he is making this request? Are there any clues to how valuable spying is to him?
- Does this letter change your perspective on Washington or spying?

Communicating through Propaganda



One major aspect of espionage is shaping the information and perceptions that people receive about their world. Analyze the propaganda and media posters in the **Disinformation** hallway and on the stairs to the first floor.

To discuss with students:

- What kind of words are used to persuade people to take specific actions? What slogans were used and what emotions and responses are these posters trying to evoke?
- How does the language and presentation of these messages affect their meaning and impact?

Objects Tell Stories—Creative Writing



In the world of espionage, everyday objects assume extraordinary histories and stories. Aldrich Ames, one of America's most damaging spies, placed chalk marks on a mailbox to signal his Soviet contacts that he had intelligence to pass to them. In **Wilderness of Mirrors**, see the mailbox and learn more about Ames' story.

To discuss with students:

- What story might this mailbox tell if it could talk?
- What everyday objects in your life have a secret history?
- How might these objects tell their story?

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Artifacts in the International Spy Museum are a great springboard for discussion and learning back in the classroom. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Look for examples of how language is encoded in everyday life. How are simple symbols, such as dollar signs, smiley faces, and traffic lights, a form of code? Are there any phrases or words that have a coded or secret meaning? Analyze graffiti, medical journals, rap songs—anything where people use a specialized vocabulary to communicate.
- The president receives a President’s Daily Brief (PDB) prepared by the CIA that contains all the intelligence-related information he needs to know for that day. The PDB guides the President in the decisions he will make. Use daily newspapers and other “open source” (material available to the public) material to write a PDB for a specific day.
- Analyze primary documents in the FBI files of famous people on the FOIA web site at <http://foia.fbi.gov/famous.htm>. Pick a celebrity to investigate, and look in their file for documents that indicate why the case file was started, how it was resolved and any other interesting facts of the case. Write a summary paper based on your findings.
- Objects tell stories. Pick an object in the Museum and write its story as a creative writing piece. You will need to know what the object is, where it came from, why it’s important, and other essential facts in order to write its story.
- Write a spy fiction story infused with facts from your visit to the Museum.
- Read a spy novel and then compare its fiction with the facts of espionage. How are fictional spies, such as James Bond, depicted the way they are? What basis does this depiction have in reality?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Childers, Erskine, *The Riddle of the Sands: A Record of Secret Service*, reissue (New York, NY: Penguin, 2000).

Fleming, Ian, *Casino Royal: A James Bond Novel*, reissue (New York, NY: Penguin, 2002).

Follett, Ken, *Eye of the Needle*, reissue (New York, NY: Avon, 2000).

Furst, Alan (ed.), *The Book of Spies: An Anthology of Literary Espionage* (New York, NY: Random House, 2003).

Greene, Graham, *Our Man in Havana*, reissue (New York, NY: Penguin, 1991).

Le Carré, John, *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, reissue (New York, NY: Scribner, 2001).