

## CRYPTOGRAM FOR AMERICANS

Learning Objectives: The student will

1. Decode the preamble to the Declaration of Independence, using deductive reasoning;
2. Work cooperatively in a group.

TEKS: 8.1A &C; US.1A; Govt. 1A

Materials Needed: Copy of cryptogram

Vocabulary: Cryptogram

Teaching Strategy:

1. The teacher will read aloud the following directions:  
  
Test your powers of reasoning as you try to decipher this famous passage from a famous American document. Three clues have been provided to help you get started. Follow the steps listed on your paper and you will have the puzzle decoded before you can say "John Hancock!"
2. Recognize the first student(s) who correctly complete the cryptogram.

Extension for GT/Pre-AP: 1. Have students develop their own cryptograms of this or other documents. 2. Give students the cryptogram without spaces separating the words.
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Test your powers of reasoning as you try to decipher this famous American document. Three clues have been provided to help get you started. Follow the steps listed below, and you'll have the puzzle decoded before you can say "John Hancock"!

L=E

W=S

O=T

1. First, go through the entire puzzle and fill in all the letters that you know.
2. Combine your knowledge of the English language with your common sense to figure out other letters.
3. Keep a list of each letter you decode.
4. Don't give up!

D L    = N X S    O = L W L    O C I O = W    O N

J L    W L X B L 4 R S L ? O    O = 8 O    8 X X

2 L ?    8 C L    G C L 8 O L S    L M I 8 X

O = 8 O    O = L E    8 C L    L ? S N D L S    J E

O = L R C    G C L 8 O N C    D R O =

G L C O 8 R ?    I ? 8 X R L ? 8 J X L

C R K = O W    O = 8 O    8 2 N ? K    O = L W L

8 C L    X R B L    X R J L C O E    8 ? S

O = L    F I C W I R O    N B    = 8 F F R ? L W W

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From the    S L G X 8 C 8 C 8 O R N ?    N B

R ? S L F L ? S L ? G L