

Secret Ink Activity

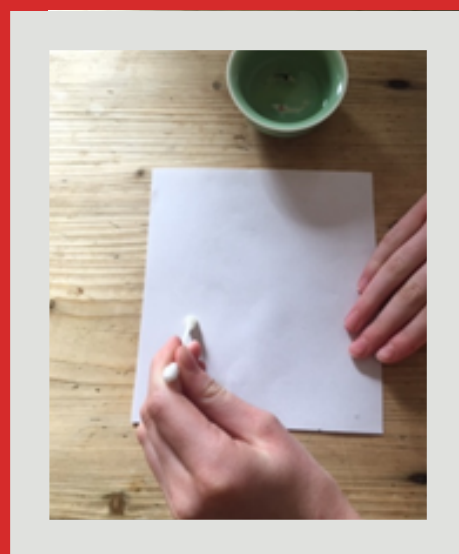
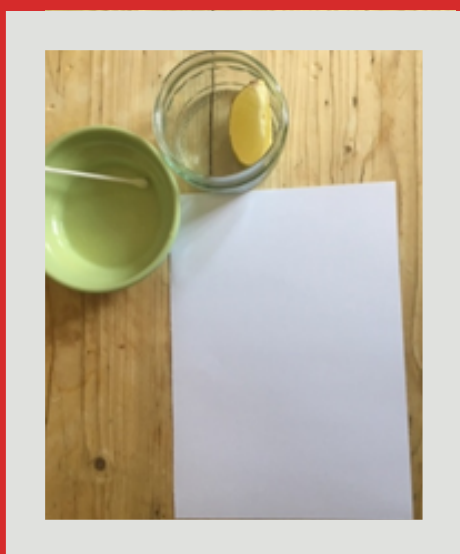
Create your own secret messages from household items.

You will need:

- Juice from a lemon
- Water
- A bowl
- A cotton bud
- White paper
- A source of heat such as a hair dryer or an iron

Oxford was at the centre of the Civil War between the King and Parliament over 400 years ago. At this time a network of spies, such as Lady Jane Whorwood, worked as secret messengers for King Charles I.

They would have had to use materials they could easily find at home to create their messages and then would hide them in their clothing.



1. Squeeze the juice from a quarter of a lemon into your bowl, add a teaspoon of water and then mix.
2. Dip the cotton bud into the mixture and use it to write a message onto the paper. Let it dry.
3. Reveal the message by exposing the paper to heat. During the Civil War, spies would have used a candle. You could use a hair dryer or an iron but make sure there is an adult present as paper can easily catch fire!