

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: 1 3 4 5

## America Enters the War

In January of 1917, the British intercepted and decoded a secret telegram sent from German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmerman to the German ambassador in Mexico. The message used a “substitution code” where the letters of the original text (the message to be put into secret form) are replaced by other letters, numbers, or symbols.

1. Using the KEY that is provided, translate the message and record it below:

*January 19. 1917*

*Mexico City*

*We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We hope to keep the United States neutral. If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance with Mexico: make war together, make peace together. Generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you.*

*ZIMMERMANN*

*German Embassy*

2. What did the second half of the Zimmerman telegram state?

*It told Mexico to ask Japan to join in the new alliance (and therefore attack the United States as well).*

3. How do you think the American **government** and the **people** of the United States reacted when they learned the contents of the message?

**Use the provided worksheet to answer the following questions:**

4. Even though President Wilson asked Americans to remain neutral “in thought as well as action”, why did most Americans find it hard to stay impartial?

5. Why did America end up favoring the Allied Powers instead of the Central Powers?

6. Describe the sinking of the Lusitania and its impact on American sentiment.

7. How did the war impact the presidential election of 1916?

8. What do you think President Wilson meant by the phrase “Peace without victory”?

9. Why did Wilson’s attempt to negotiate peace in October of 1917 fail?

10. On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress to request a **declaration of war** against Germany. How did the Zimmerman telegram influence that action?

THE ZIMMERMANN NOTE

(The First Half)

<sup>1</sup>GG-DG-D F-XA-DG AV-XV-D V-DD-DV DD-DV-G A

<sup>2</sup>VA-AF-X G-DA-DX VD-DX-D A-VX-XV

<sup>3</sup>VX-VD-X D-VD-DF AF-DX-G X-GD-DG AV-FD-V X

<sup>4</sup>XF-AF-D A-DF-VX AF-DF-F D-VX-VD AA-AF-F X-DA-DF VD-DF-V X-GD-AF FG-DA-A

<sup>5</sup>V-VV-VX VD-FG-F G-AF-AA AV-XA-D G-AV-XV XA-DF-A V-AF-VV VX-AV-D A-DX-VX

<sup>6</sup>AF-FD-V V-XA-AA VA-DG-A V-DA-DF AF-XF-D G-AV-FG DG-AV-A F-XF-AF GD-VD-V

<sup>7</sup>F-AF-VX VD-GX-A F-AF-VF VX-GD-A F-XA-DF DA-VX-A F-FD-VV VX-DG-V X-AF-VV

<sup>8</sup>DF-AF-X A-VX-AV DG-AX-D A-FG-VX GD-DA-V V-DG-VX VX-AF-V A-VF-VX DA-VV-D

<sup>9</sup>F-VD-VX VV-XA-D X-DX-AF VV-VV-F G-XA-AX XF-AF-V F-AV-VD VF-VD-V V-AF-DG

<sup>10</sup>DF-DG-A X-AX-DA DG-DF-D X-AF-XF DA-VX-G D-VA-AF XG-DA-D X-VD-VA DG-GX-A

<sup>11</sup>F-XF-DG AV-VX-V D-FX-AF VX-GD-A F-AV-VA DG-GX-A F-VF-AF DG-DX-A F-VX-VD

<sup>12</sup>FX-AF-V X-GD-AF AV-FX-A F-DF-AF AV-VD-X A-VV-FG DA-DF-D G-DF-DX DA-DG-A

<sup>13</sup>X-VV-XA VF-VF-V D-AV-VX DG-DF-F D-DG-DF XA-DF-F D-AF-AV VV-VX-D G-DF-FD

<sup>14</sup>DA-DF-F X-VD-DF VD-XA-A V-VF-DG AV-VX-V X-GD-DG VX-VA-A F-XG-DA DX-VD-D

<sup>15</sup>A-VV-VX VD-AV-A F-VX-DG GX-AF-A X-VD-VV VX-VX-A F-AV-AV DA-VX-V D-AV-XV

<sup>16</sup>DA-DF-V X-AF-XG DG-VV-D F-AF-XF VA-AF-X G-DA-DX VD-DG-D F-FD-DG AV-DA-X

<sup>17</sup>X-VD-DF DG-VX-G D-AF-VV AF-VX-V X-AX-AF VA-AF-D F-VX-DA DF-FD-A F-VX-DG

<sup>18</sup>DA-AX-D A-VV-AX AF-FG-V X-VX-VD XV-VD-X A

<sup>19</sup>XX-DA-V A-VA-AF AV-VA-D G-DF-DF

<sup>20</sup>FX-AF-A V-VA-DG DF-AF-V A-AA-DG VV-VV-X V

In this type of system, each letter in the text is replaced by two letters in the coded message. The first letter in the message is from the vertical axis of the grid, and the second letter is from its horizontal axis. For example, if "DG" were the first two letters to decipher in a cryptogram, you would find the letter "D" on the vertical axis and the letter "G" on the horizontal axis. Trace them across the grid to their intersection at the letter "A" in the plaintext.

<b>GRID</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>A</b>	B	2	E	5	R	L
<b>D</b>	I	9	N	A	1	C
<b>F</b>	3	D	4	F	6	G
<b>G</b>	7	H	8	J	0	K
<b>V</b>	M	O	P	Q	S	T
<b>X</b>	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

In this type of system, each letter in the text is replaced by two letters in the coded message. The first letter in the message is from the vertical axis of the grid, and the second letter is from its horizontal axis. For example, if "DG" were the first two letters to decipher in a cryptogram, you would find the letter "D" on the vertical axis and the letter "G" on the horizontal axis. Trace them across the grid to their intersection at the letter "A" in the plaintext.

<b>GRID</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>A</b>	B	2	E	5	R	L
<b>D</b>	I	9	N	A	1	C
<b>F</b>	3	D	4	F	6	G
<b>G</b>	7	H	8	J	0	K
<b>V</b>	M	O	P	Q	S	T
<b>X</b>	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

**Answer Key:**

**Decoded Abridged Portion: (From Above)**

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We hope to keep the United States neutral. If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance with Mexico: make war together, make peace together. Generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you.

ZIMMERMANN

German Embassy

**Zimmermann Note: (Unabridged)**

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. **You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace.**" Signed, ZIMMERMANN

January 19, 1917

Mexico City

To Von Eckhardt,

We intend to begin on the first  
of February unrestricted  
submarine warfare. We hope  
to keep the United States  
neutral. If this attempt is  
not successful we propose an  
alliance with Mexico. Make  
war together. Make peace together.  
Generous financial  
support and understanding  
on our part the Mexico  
is to retake lost territory  
in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.  
The settlement in detail  
is left up to you.

Zimmerman

German Embassy