



**2002 Shaping the World: Conversation on Democracy  
A Conversation with Thomas Jefferson and Marquis de Lafayette**

**Section III: Jefferson, United States Minister to France**

*"Behold you, then, my dear friend, at the head of a great army, establishing the liberties of your country against a foreign enemy. May heaven favor your cause, and make you the channel through which it may pour its favors."*

Thomas Jefferson to Marquis de Lafayette, June 1792

*"The ball of liberty is now so well in motion that it will roll around the globe."*

Thomas Jefferson to Tench Coxe , 1795

**What does it mean to be an American Minister or Ambassador?**

Thomas Jefferson served as minister to France from 1785 to 1789.

The current US ambassador to France is ?? (Answer can be found at the [French embassy website](#)).

**Compare and contrast Jefferson and the current ambassador's background. List any similarities you find. List any differences you discover.**

**Review two letters written by Jefferson from Paris:**

[To James Madison](#)  
*Paris, September 1, 1785*

[To George Washington](#)  
*Paris, December 4, 1788*

and **develop a chart** indicating what you think Jefferson's duties were as Minister to France in one column. Review the information at the [French embassy website](#) and in a second column of the chart **list the duties** that you think the current ambassador attends to today. **Did you find any similarities? Are there any major differences?**



Courtesy of the National Security Agency

Jefferson described using a cipher wheel for sending classified messages from France to the United States. A cipher is a system of changing text in order to hide a message.

**What types of information do you think Jefferson sent in secret code?**

Today the mission statement of the National Security Agency is "the ability to understand the secret communications of our foreign adversaries while protecting our own communications -- a capability in which the United States leads the world -- gives our nation a unique advantage."

In his [letter to George Washington, December 4, 1788](#), Jefferson wrote:

*"The Marquis de La Fayette is out of favor with the court, but high in favor with the nation."*

**Code these words so they do not fall into enemy hands.**

Try your hand at solving some of the puzzles provided by the National Security Agency at

<http://www.nsa.gov/kids/index.htm>

For more information on the National Security Agency visit:

<http://www.nsa.gov>

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Lesson Plans and Supporting Material**

**Section III  
Jefferson, United States Minister to France**

**Message to Decode**

**Thomas Jefferson**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
	8	14		15											20			23		22	21				

<b>E</b>				<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>			<b>B</b>	<b>U</b>			<b>E</b>				<b>E</b>			<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>	
1	15		2	6	21	15		8	22	5	7	15	18		12	2	15		21	15	23	23	15	16
<b>C</b>			<b>U</b>		<b>B</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>S</b>					<b>P</b>		<b>E</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>								
14	26	16	22	3	8	22	23		12	26		20	5	15	21	15	7	12						
<b>C</b>		<b>P</b>		<b>U</b>		<b>E</b>		<b>B</b>				<b>E</b>		<b>B</b>					<b>S</b>					
14	6	20	12	22	5	15		8	9		12	2	15		8	5	24	12	24	23	2			

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**Message to Decode**

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**Message from Jefferson**

D	S	T	R	O	S	A	L	L	S	E	N	W	I	F	R	A	O	P	S
N	D	N	C	E	H	I	P												


Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

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**American Independence**

T W F N R S L A S N N W L B T  
 R C A E A I H U J O O A I R R  
 O E N S B E P I I S F R U I E  
 O T T E H P C T P A H N E T A  
 P W R S L I A O Y S I A R A T  
 S T F I I R N E O F R A M I Y  
 Y E E R A N T G O I S C A N N  
 I S N L D T I R T T E P E N D  
 E N C C E E M M H O Z Z Q C Y  
 P E J D H L E G B C N W B L B  
 D S J A S S I S T A N C E D H  
 J E F F E R S O N D T A V L N  
 X O C G A P F N I M H D J F Y  
 M O D E E R F G H V A E C Y G  
 A E Z P Y A Z G G I N V H D W

**ASSISTANCE  
 FREEDOM  
 LIBERTY  
 RIGHTS  
 TREATY  
 WAR**

**BRITAIN  
 JEFFERSON  
 MINISTER  
 SHIPS  
 TROOPS  
 WASHINGTON**

**DECLARATION  
 LAFAYETTE  
 OCEAN  
 SUPPLIES  
 UNIFORM**

Find and circle these words in the puzzle above. Write the remaining letters below to reveal the hidden message:

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Lafayette sought Jefferson's council on preparing a declaration of rights for the French people. Compare and contrast the [American Declaration of Independence](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declare.asp) (July 4, 1776) to the [Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp) (August 26, 1789).

**List in a chart items that are similar and items that are unique to each document.**

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In June of 1792 Jefferson wrote to Lafayette:

*"Behold you, then, my dear friend, at the head of a great army, establishing the liberties of your country against a foreign enemy. May heaven favor your cause, and make you the channel through which it may pour its favors."*

**Create a time line for the French Revolution and label with the following information:**

- The Women's March to Versailles (The October Days)
- The Trial of Louis XVI
- Napoleon Bonaparte declares himself Emperor of France
- Louis XVI signing the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
- Storming of the Bastille
- Abolition of the Monarchy
- The Oath of the Tennis Court
- Storming of the Tuileries Palace
- The Execution of Louis XVI