

# Code Wheel: for encrypting and deciphering messages

This activity can be easily differentiated to accommodate different ages and abilities. The idea is to use two circles to create a Code Wheel to encrypt and decipher messages.

## What you need

### Easier version:

Circle Templates printed on card

Scissors

Pencils/pens

Split pins

### Harder version:

Card

Pair of compasses

Protractor

Pencils/pens

Scissors

Split pins

## How to do it:

- 1) Cut out one big circle and one little circle
- 2) If using blank templates then the alphabet needs to be written on both the inner circle and outer circle (preferably in capitals on the outer wheel and lower-case on the inner wheel)
- 3) Use a split pin to join the two circles together
- 4) Spin the inner wheel to a position where the letters are 'incorrectly' aligned
- 5) Choose one pair of letters to remember your code: e.g. A=w (make sure you write this down somewhere)
- 6) Write a short sentence and encode it. Make sure you know which of the circles is your for the letters of your original sentence and which is for your code.
- 7) Share your coded sentences and wheels to see if other people can decode your message.

## Ideas for adapting the exercise:

- Studying Ancient Egypt? Create a Hieroglyphs wheel.
- Use the code wheel to create a shapes and symbols code.



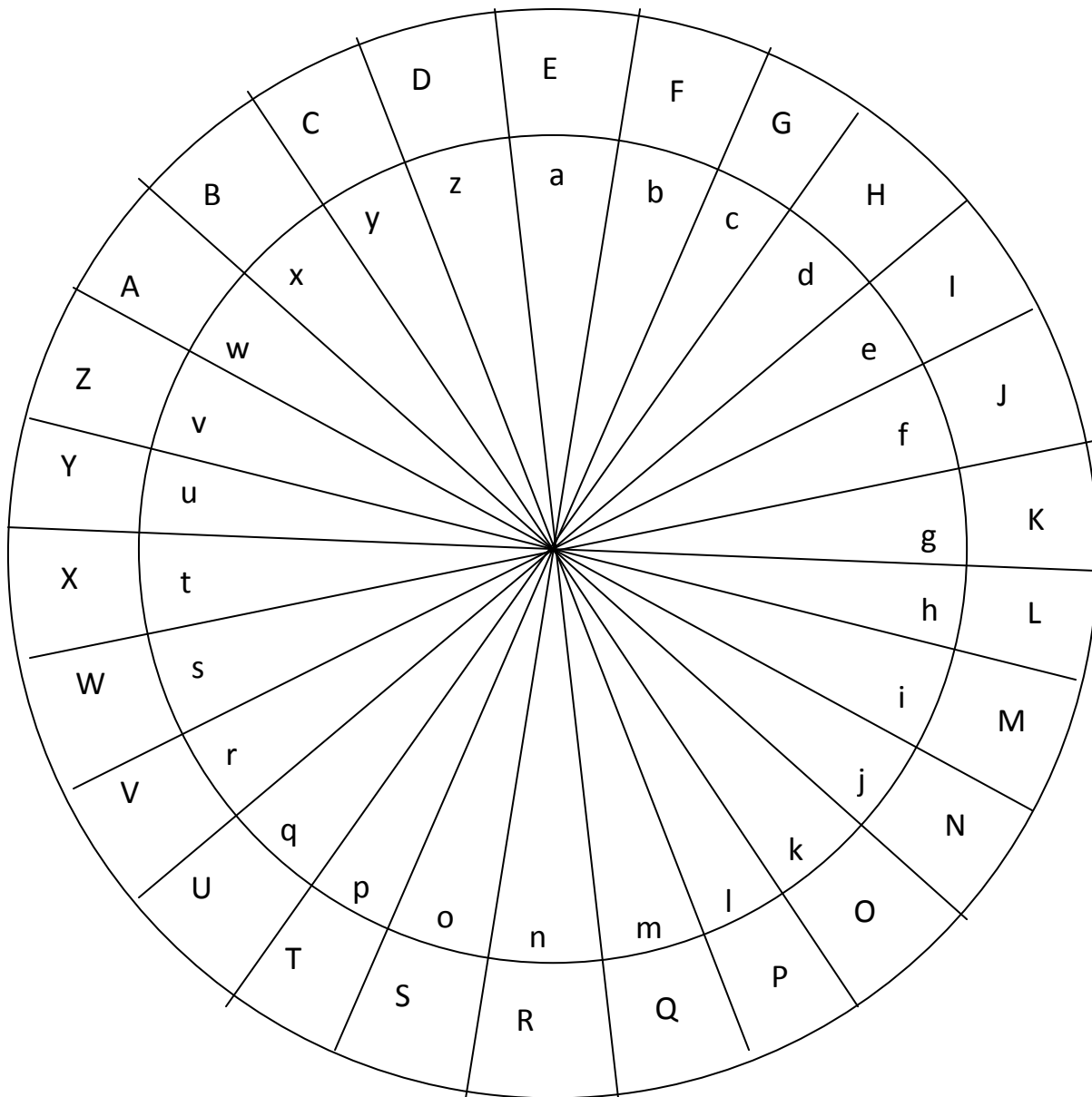
Brent Museum

Brent Archives

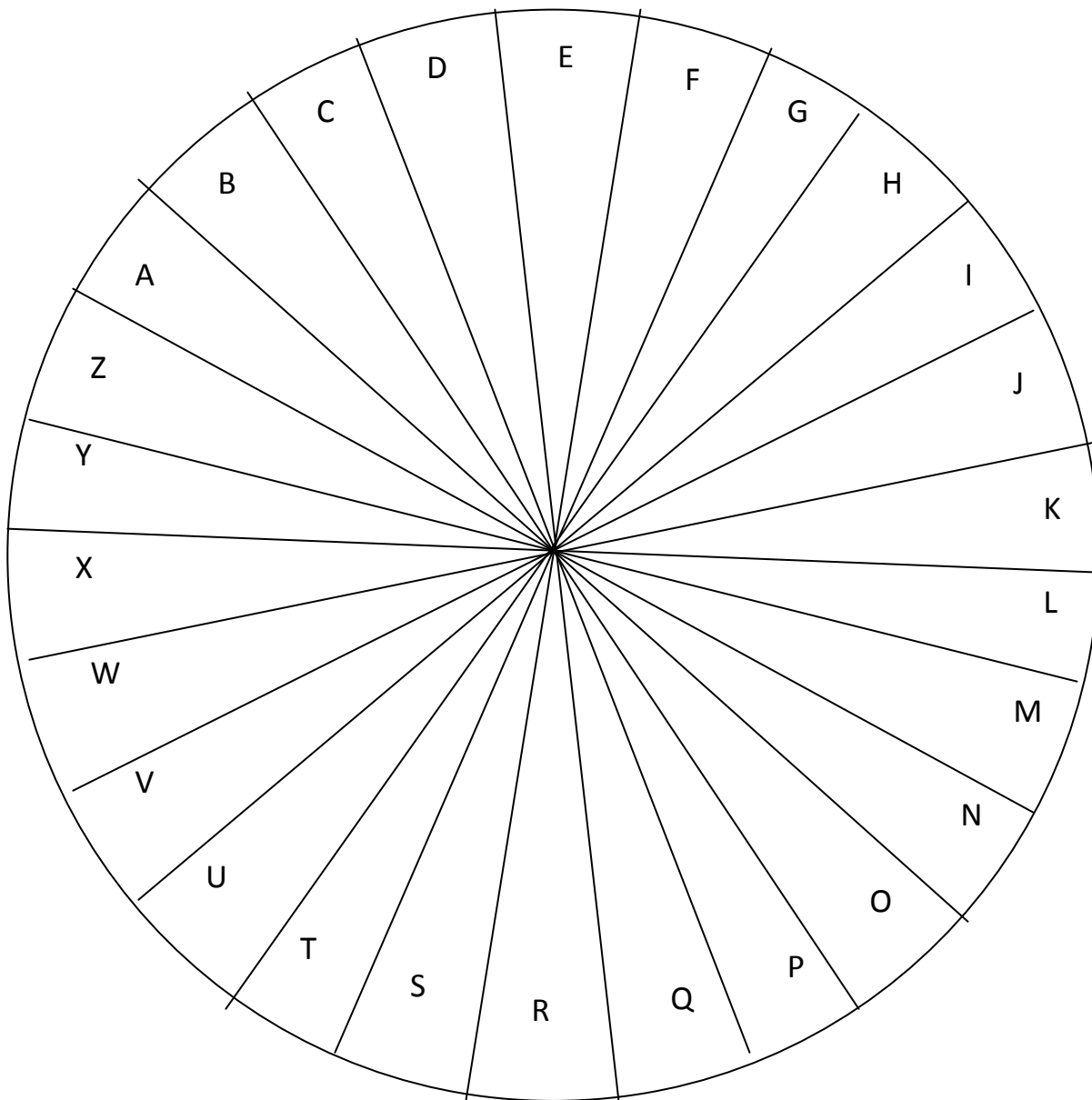
# Code Wheel: what it will look like!

Below is an example of a complete code wheel. If I use the outer wheel as my original letters the sentence.

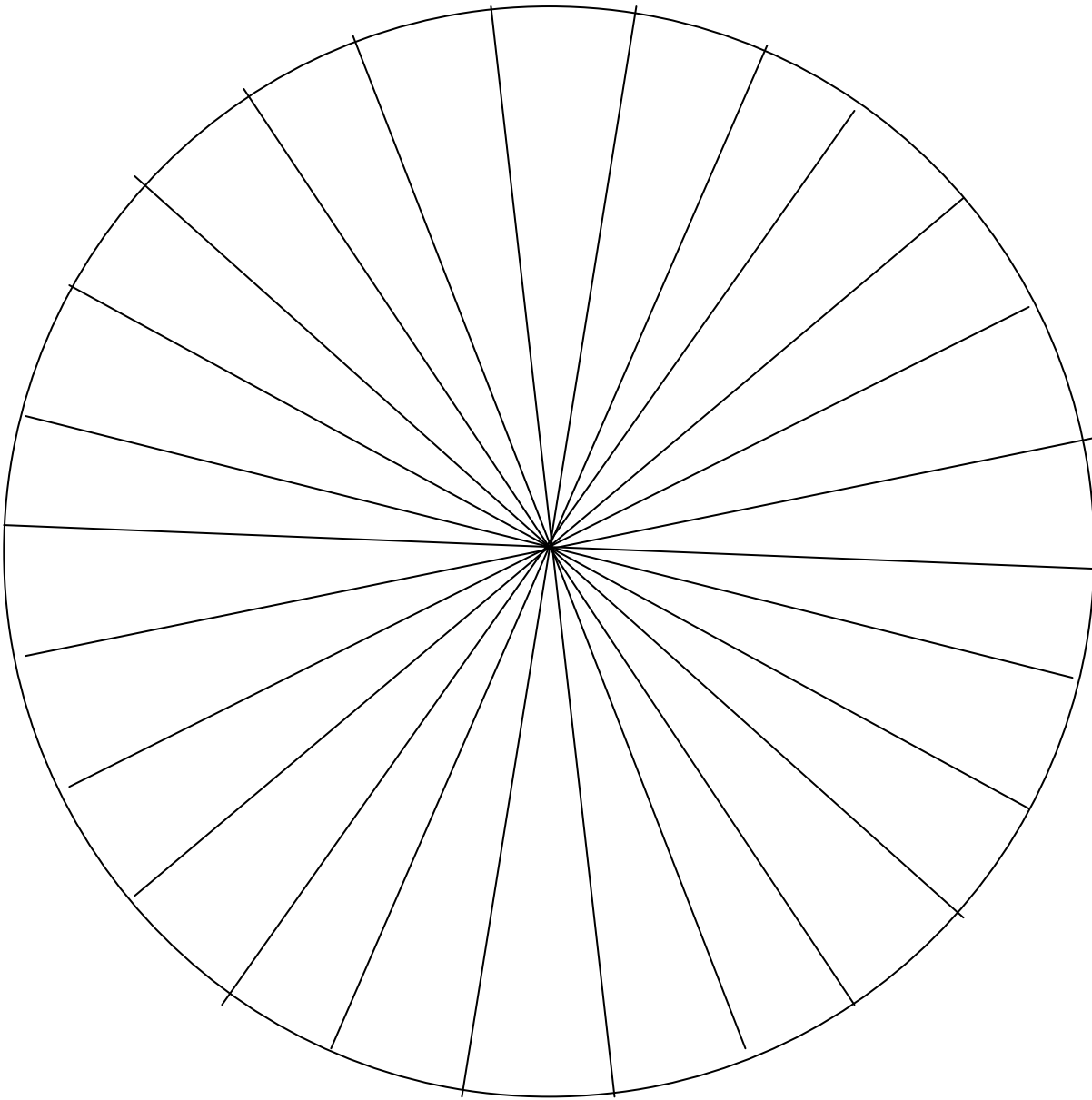
I like code wheels! would become E hega ykza sdiihw!



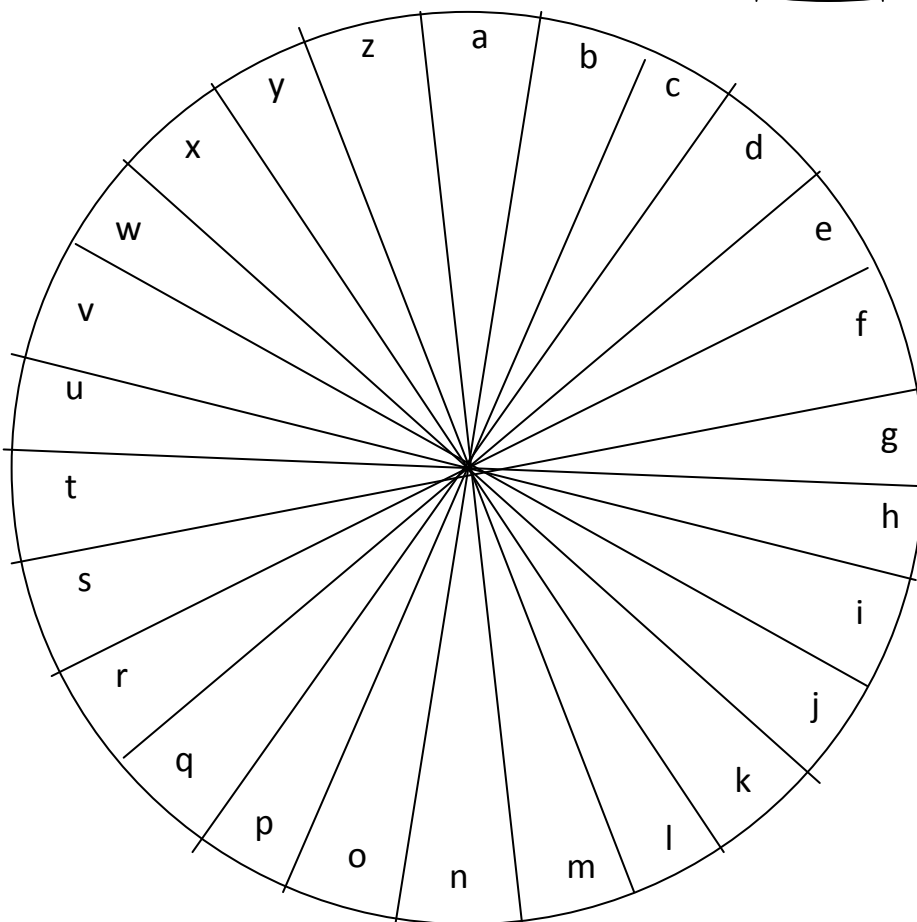
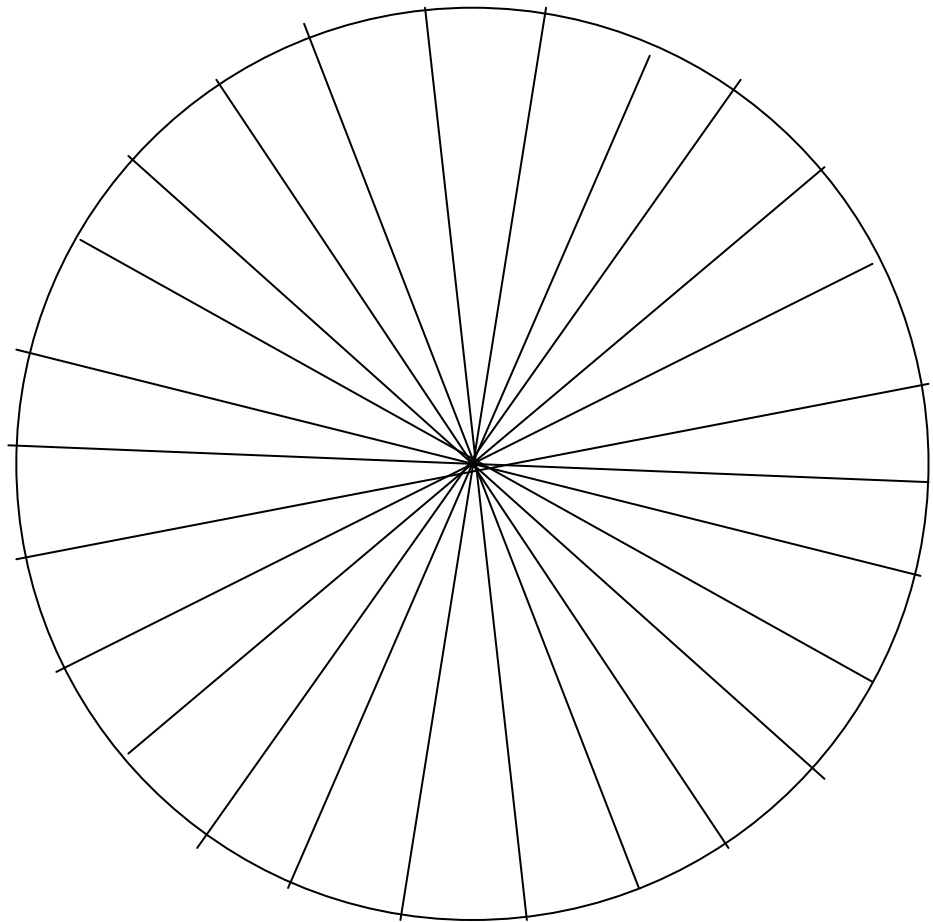
# Template: Outer Wheel with alphabet



# Template: Outer Wheel blank



# Template: Inner Wheel (blank and with alphabet)



# Template: Combined Wheels (to show placement)

