

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE FOUND THE INSTRUCTIONS YOU WILL NEED TO DECODE THE MESSAGE I HAVE ENCRYPTED USING A CAESAR CIPHER.

CAESAR CIPHER EXPLANATION

The Caesar cipher is a classical encryption technique named after Julius Caesar, who reportedly used it to secure his military communications. Despite its historical significance and educational value, the Caesar cipher is not secure by modern cryptographic standards, as it can be easily broken using frequency analysis or brute force attacks. Nonetheless, it serves as an excellent introduction to the basic principles of encryption and the concept of substituting symbols to conceal information.

It is a type of substitution cipher where each letter in the plaintext is shifted a fixed number of places down or up the alphabet, determined by a shift value or key.

For example, with a shift of 2, the letter 'A' becomes 'C', 'B' becomes 'D', and so on, wrapping around to the beginning of the alphabet when necessary (so 'X' becomes 'Z', 'Y' becomes 'A', 'Z' becomes 'B'). This simple method of encryption transforms the original message into a coded form that appears unintelligible at a glance.

DECRYPTION

To decrypt the message, one would apply the reverse process, shifting letters back by the same key value. The calcium.pdf file that you found, has the shifting done for you. Now you just need to use the diagram to decrypt the message you found on the treasure map.