

Using a SCYTALE (Activity for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

	<p>This scytale has 8 sides.</p> <p>To decipher the message on a second scytale the second scytale has to have the same number of sides as the first one</p>
	<p>This scytale is round</p> <p>To decipher the message on second scytale the second scytale has to have the same circumference as the first one</p>

For this exercise we will use 2 different Scytals that are easy to find at your house or by taking a quick trip to the store. If you go to the store to buy these, you can use the paper shopping bag to make strips of paper on which you can write your message

<p>A 3 SIDED SCYTLE</p>	<p>A 4 SIDED SCYTALE</p>
	

Half the students use a Toblerone box, the other half uses Toothpaste box

- Each student uses his or her Scytale to write a message
- Now students can try and read the messages that were written.
- Toblerone messages can be read on other Toblerones
- Toothpaste messages can be read on other Toothpaste boxes

Discussion topic 1: Measure the circumference of each type of Scytale and discuss why a message written on one cannot be decoded on the other

Discussion topic 2: Do you think it is possible to write a message that, when read on the Toblerone actually means something, and when read on the Toothpaste box also means something. How would you attempt to create such a message? Wouldn't it be fun to create a message that is good news on the Toblerone and bad news on the Toothpaste box?