

Pliny the Elder Cryptograms — Set 2

4 puzzles · Large print · answers on the last page

Every letter has been swapped for another letter. The same cipher letter always stands for the same letter, and no letter ever stands for itself. Write your answer in the blank under each letter. Answers are on the last page.

1. Clue: Q = E

Medium · 79 letters

K P H Z W Z A A P J A K Q

Q D A Q F A J Z D A P Q

V Q E Z Q R A P J A R Y F

Q S Q F H G B F G Y W Q Y U U

D B O V Q F W J F Q A P Q

O Y W A Q R R Q M A B J E ?

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

2. Clue: X = T

Medium · 86 letters

D X D V N D T D W C I J C V

X J V C F F J V B X K Z X

X K B S N B Z X K B Z T J U

X K D Y S V , A K Z X B R B N

D X M B , F Z H V Z Y H

N B S Z N T X J K C P Z Y

Z U U Z D N V .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

3. Clue: Y = E

Easy · 89 letters

P E P N O F M O M D G

Y F N H E D B Y E Y M G P T Y

U L Y E L Y M N L Y

[T F E K M Y] L F N

J M D I Y B E D L P G F

Z P T B J F M Y T E D M F

G Y M R P X Y N N

N E Y J G D E L Y M .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

4. Clue: G = S

Medium · 129 letters

A T A L K N E V U C V G

G J J N E A Z S K J V R ,

W U Z N E V G V G N E A

L A W G J U F E K Z V T A L G

G A U Z J M N G H W R R

Y M W U N V N V A G J B V N

B L J H N E A V L

H J M N E G , S A D W M G A

V N G H J J N E G A T A L K

O W L N F E V D E V G

L J M C E .

Decoder — write your answer under each cipher letter:

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

Solver's cheat sheet

Most common letters	E T A O I N S H R D L U
Most common 1-letter words	A I
Most common 2-letter words	OF TO IN IT IS BE AS AT SO WE HE BY OR ON DO IF ME MY UP AN GO NO US AM
Most common 3-letter words	THE AND FOR ARE BUT NOT YOU ALL ANY CAN HER WAS ONE OUR OUT DAY GET HAS HIM HIS HOW MAN NEW NOW OLD SEE TWO WAY WHO BOY DID ITS LET PUT SAY SHE TOO USE
Common double letters	LL EE SS OO TT FF RR NN PP CC
Common word endings	-ING -ION -ENT -TION -LY -ED -ER -EST
After an apostrophe	T (don't) S (it's) RE (we're) VE (I've) LL (we'll) D (I'd)

Answer key

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1. "Why is it that we entertain the belief that for every purpose odd numbers are the most effectual?"

— Pliny the Elder, 77, *Natural History (Naturalis Historia)*, Book XXVIII. Sect. 23 (in Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

2. "It is ridiculous to suppose that the great head of things, whatever it be, pays any regard to human affairs."

— Pliny the Elder, 77, *Natural History (Naturalis Historia)*, Book II. Sect. 20 (in Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

3. "It is far from easy to determine whether she [Nature] has proved to him a kind parent or a merciless stepmother."

— Pliny the Elder, 77, *Natural History (Naturalis Historia)*, Book VII. Sect. 1 (in Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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

4. "Everything is soothed by oil, and this is the reason why divers send out small quantities of it from their mouths, because it smooths every part which is rough."

— Pliny the Elder, 77, *Natural History (Naturalis Historia)*, Book II. Sect. 234 (in Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, 9th ed., 1891)

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