Pirate Cipher Puzzle

Name: _____ Team: _____

A scrap of parchment washed ashore. The letters look wrong — each one was shifted forward by 3. Decode the message. Write one plain letter under each cipher letter.

Caesar shift chart (each letter moves forward by 3):

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

Top row = plain letter. Bottom row = cipher letter (plain + 3).

Coded message

W K H F K H V W L V E B W K H G R F N

__ __ __ / __ __ __ __ __ / __ __ / __ __ / __ __ __ / __ __ __ __

Decoded message (write the words here):

_____

_____

_____

Hint: A becomes D, B becomes E, ... X becomes A, Y becomes B, Z becomes C.

This is a free sample cipher. The full Saltbeard Classroom kit has 7 linked puzzles and a teacher guide.

Want a full classroom pirate escape room? Captain Saltbeard: Classroom Edition ($4.99).

partypuzzlekits.pages.dev/free-pirate-cipher.html | Free for home and classroom use. (c) 2026 Party Puzzle Kits

Pirate Cipher Puzzle

ANSWER KEY (grown-ups / teachers only!)

Shift used: +3 (Caesar cipher). Plain text of the coded message:

THE CHEST IS BY THE DOCK

Cipher was: WKH FKHVW LV EB WKH GRFN

How to check a student's work:

1. Confirm they used shift +3 (not -3 or another number).
2. Each cipher letter maps back by subtracting 3 (wrap A<-X, B<-Y, C<-Z).
3. Accept minor spacing differences; the five words must match exactly.
4. Common wrong answers: shifting by 1, or treating spaces as letters.

Letter-by-letter key (cipher → plain):

B → Y	E → B	F → C	G → D	H → E	K → H	L → I	N → K
R → O	V → S	W → T					

Want a full classroom pirate escape room? Captain Saltbeard: Classroom Edition ($4.99).

partypuzzlekits.pages.dev/free-pirate-cipher.html | Free for home and classroom use. (c) 2026 Party Puzzle Kits