BLETCHLEYPARK
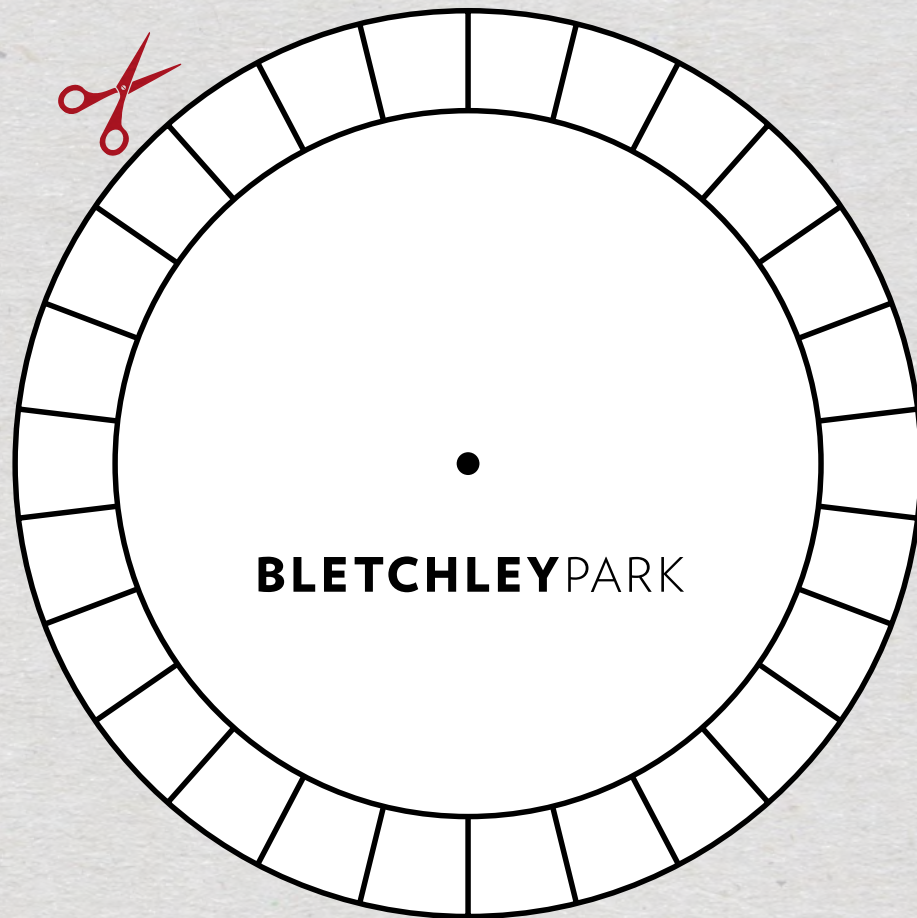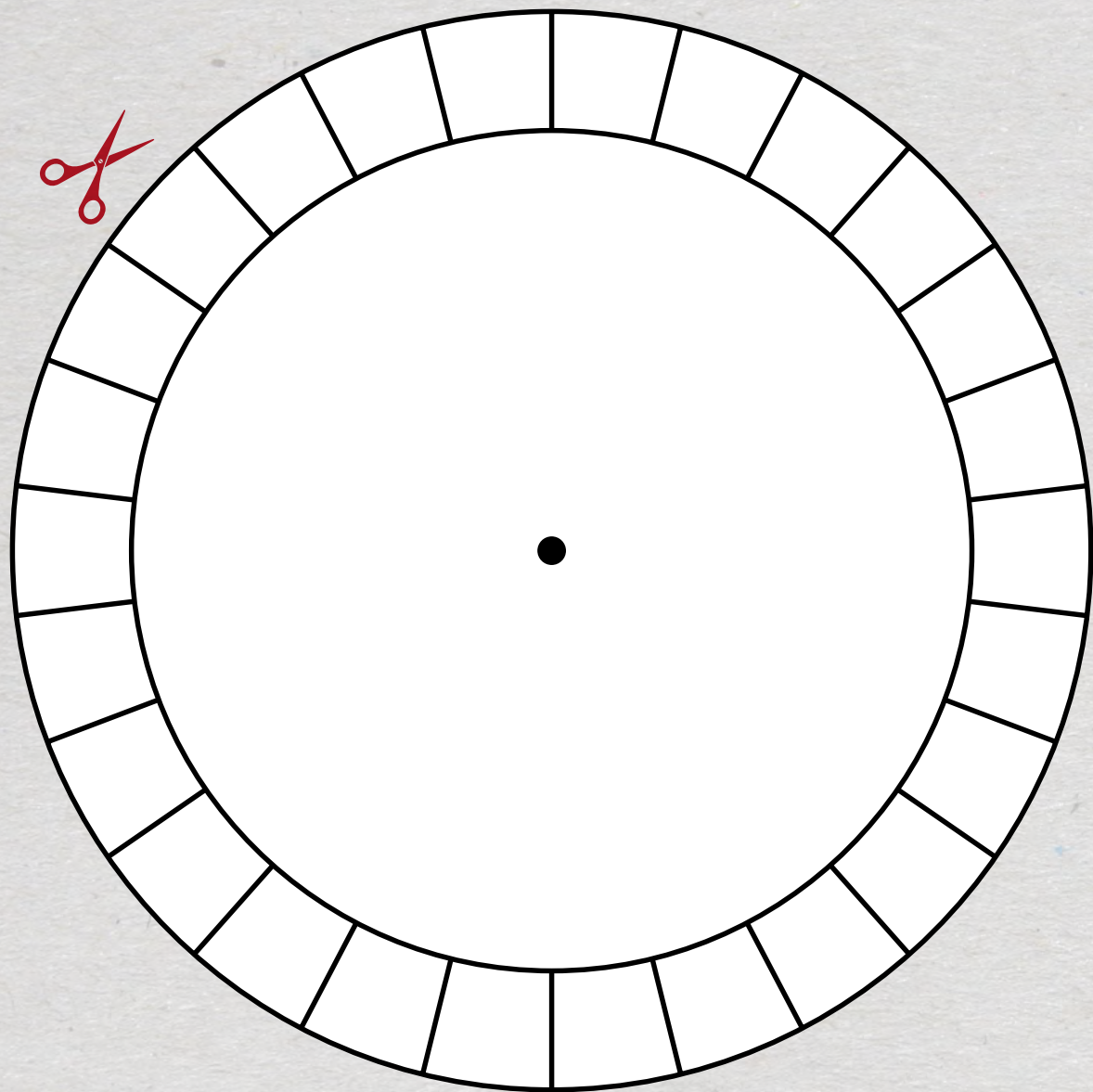
HOW TO MAKE A CAESAR WHEEL

YOU WILL NEED

- This template
- Scissors
- A pen or pencil
- Split pin
- A friend or family member to send your secret message to
  (If they don't live with you, it might be useful to send them this template so they can make their own Caesar wheel to decode your message!)

HOW TO BUILD YOUR CAESAR WHEEL

- Write the letters A-Z (capitals) clockwise in order in the boxes around the outside of the larger circle.
- Write the letters a-z (lower case) clockwise in order in the boxes around the outside of the smaller circle.
- Cut out the two circles.
- (Carefully!) poke a hole through the dot in the centre of each wheel.
- Place the smaller circle over the larger circle so that the holes line up, and join them together using a split pin. If you don't have a split pin you can be inventive with a piece of string or a paperclip.
- The two circles should be able to rotate around this centre hole with respect to each other.

HOW TO ENCRYPT A MESSAGE

- Pick a key (any letter from A-Z).
- Line up the a (on the inside wheel) with the letter you picked (on the outside wheel). So for example, you might line up the a on the inside wheel with the letter Z on the outside wheel.
- Find each letter in your message on the inside wheel and replace it with the corresponding letter on the outside wheel.
- Send the resulting gibberish to the recipient, along with the key you chose.

HOW TO DECRYPT A MESSAGE

- Line up the a (on the inside wheel) with the key letter (on the outside wheel) sent to you by the person who encrypted the message.
- Find each letter in the encrypted message on the outside wheel and replace it with the corresponding letter on the inside wheel.

Note: Encryption and decryption are opposite processes so one goes inside > outside, the other goes outside > inside. It doesn't really matter which as long as whoever is doing the decryption does the opposite of what the person who encrypted the message did.

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