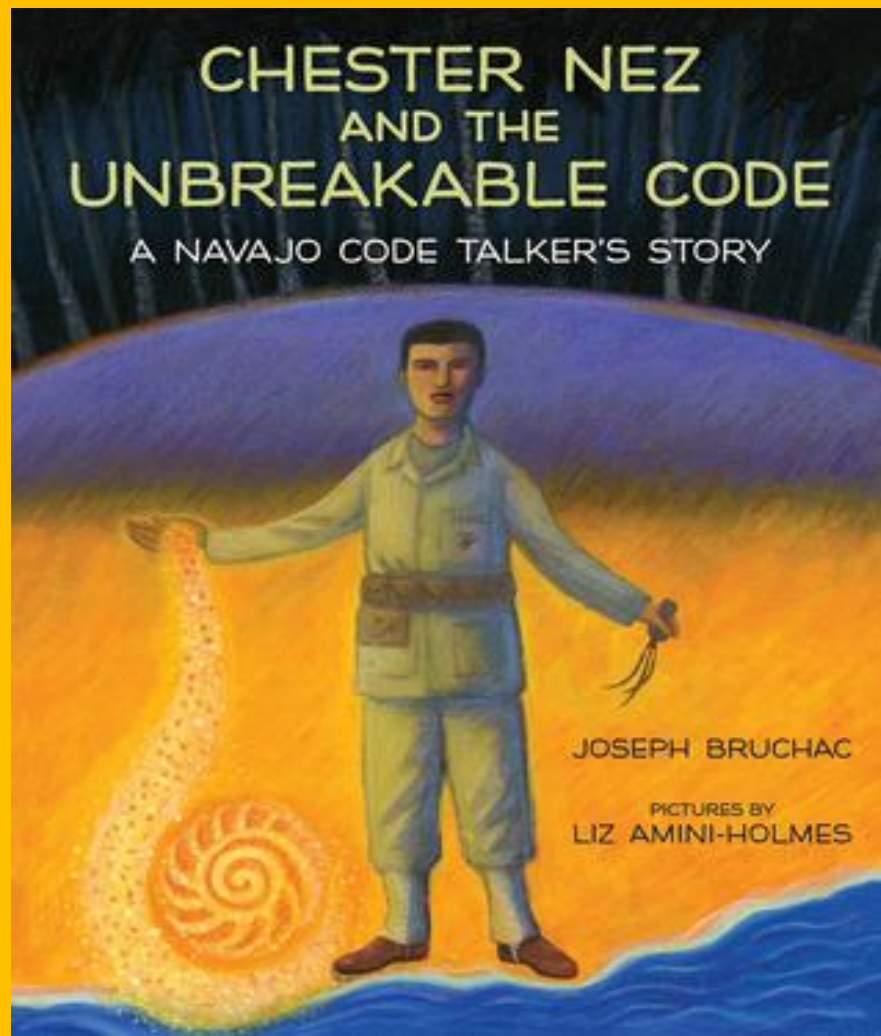


**Lesson Plan**  
**Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code**  
**A Navajo Code Talker's Story**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**



# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Teacher:                     | Date:   |
| Grade: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Lesson: American Indian Heritage Month<br>The Navajo Code Talkers |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>OBJECTIVES:</b> CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1<br/>Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i>, <i>what</i>, <i>where</i>, <i>when</i>, <i>why</i>, and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2<br/>Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.</p> | <p><b>STRATEGIES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Large Group</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

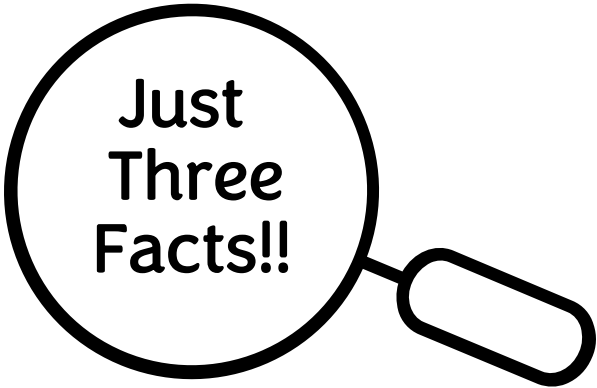
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|--|---|
| <b>MATERIALS:</b>  | Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of the Just Three Facts Graphic Organizer for Nonfiction; Copies of the Navajo Code Alphabet; Copies of the Decode the Navajo Alphabet Worksheet; Copies of the Alphabetize the Code Talkers Terms Worksheet Copies of the Navajo Code Talker Coloring Sheet  |
| <b>Engage:</b> Hook the students   | Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner, and share their answer.<br>T/P/S Question: How would you feel if you were forced to have your hair cut off? What if someone took your clothes and gave you a blue uniform to wear? What if they told you not to speak the language you had been speaking all of your life? How would all of those things make you feel?   |
| <b>Explore:</b> Students make sense of a concept through observations.         | Handout the Just Three Facts Graphic Organizer for Nonfiction.<br>Play the YouTube Read Aloud <i>Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code-Navajo Code Talker's Story</i> , Author-Joseph Bruchac, Illustrator-Liz Amini-Holmes <a href="https://youtu.be/40MrkcoxSx8">https://youtu.be/40MrkcoxSx8</a><br>Give the students time to complete the graphic organizer.<br>Handout copies of the Navajo Code Alphabet and copies of the Decode the Navajo Alphabet Worksheet.<br>Handout the copies of the Alphabetize the Code Talkers Terms Worksheet.<br>Handout copies of the Navajo Code Talkers coloring sheet. |
| <b>Explain:</b> Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students. | <b>Decode</b> -to make sense out of something, <b>Navajo</b> -a Native American tribe, <b>Long Walk</b> -in 1864, a 300-450 mile walk the Navajo were forced to take from their homes in Arizona and New Mexico to Fort Sumner in New Mexico, <b>matron</b> -teacher at a boarding school, <b>Boarding School</b> -a school where children lived while going to school  |
| <b>Elaborate:</b> Students apply what they have learned.                       | Students will complete the Just Three Facts Graphic Organizer to gain an understanding of the Navajo Code Talkers and what their contributions were during World War II. Students will complete the Decode the Navajo Alphabet Worksheet to understand how the Navajo Code was difficult for the Japanese to understand. The students will complete the coloring sheet of the Navajo Code Talker.   |
| <b>Evaluate:</b> assessment.   | Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.  |
| <b>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</b>                                     | Students will brainstorm a way to serve in their local community in honor of the Navajo Code Talkers. See a list of potential projects on the last page.  |

Wreaths Across America  
Lesson Plan

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Graphic Organizer for Non-fiction  
FACT #1

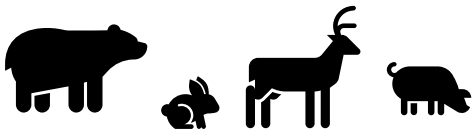


|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

What did it make you think?

|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

FACT #2



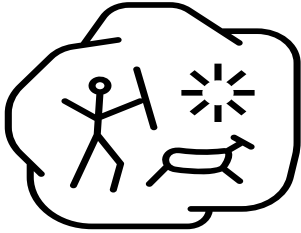
|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
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| _____ |

What did it make you think?

|       |
|-------|
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| _____ |
| _____ |

# Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
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| Grade: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Lesson: American Indian Heritage Month<br>The Navajo Code Talkers |



## FACT #3

|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

What did it make you think?

|       |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

## The Facts:

|      |
|------|
| Who? |
|------|

|       |
|-------|
| What? |
|-------|

|       |
|-------|
| When? |
|-------|

|        |
|--------|
| Where? |
|--------|

|      |
|------|
| Why? |
|------|

# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
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### Navajo Code Using the English Alphabet

| Alphabet (English) | Code language (English) |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| A                  | Ant                     |
| B                  | Bear                    |
| C                  | Cat                     |
| D                  | Deer                    |
| E                  | Elk                     |
| F                  | Fox                     |
| G                  | Goat                    |
| H                  | Horse                   |
| I                  | Ice                     |
| J                  | Jack                    |
| K                  | Kid                     |
| L                  | Lamb                    |
| M                  | Mouse                   |
| N                  | Nut                     |
| O                  | Owl                     |
| P                  | Pig                     |
| Q                  | Quiver                  |
| R                  | Rabbit                  |
| S                  | Sheep                   |
| T                  | Turkey                  |
| U                  | Ute                     |
| V                  | Victor                  |
| W                  | Weasel                  |
| X                  | Cross                   |
| Y                  | Yucca                   |
| Z                  | Zinc                    |

**Wreaths Across America  
Lesson Plan**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Use the Navajo Code to Decode the following message:

Nut-Ant-Victor-Ant-Jack-Owl      \_\_\_\_\_

Cat-Owl-Deer-Elk      \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey-Ant-Lamb-Kid-Elk-Rabbit-Sheep      \_\_\_\_\_

Horse-Elk-Lamb-Pig-Elk-Deer      \_\_\_\_\_

Turkey-Horse-Elk      \_\_\_\_\_

Weasel-Owl-Rabbit-Lamb-Deer      \_\_\_\_\_

Weasel-Ant-Rabbit-Sheep      \_\_\_\_\_

Use the Navajo Code to Write Your First & Last Name  
For example: Sally Sheep-Ant-Lamb-Lamb-Yucca

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**Wreaths Across America  
Lesson Plan**

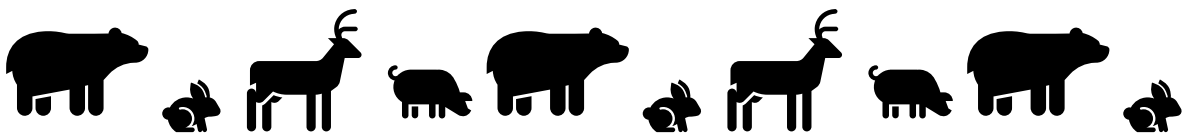
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|------------------------------|---|
| Teacher:                     | Date:   |
| Grade: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Lesson: American Indian Heritage Month<br>The Navajo Code Talkers |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Navajo Code Talkers

Directions: Put the words on the right in alphabetical order in the spaces on the left.

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. _____  | Fort Defiance   |
| 2. _____  | Marine          |
| 3. _____  | Navajo Code     |
| 4. _____  | Recruiters      |
| 5. _____  | World War II    |
| 6. _____  | Radio           |
| 7. _____  | Corn Pollen     |
| 8. _____  | Decode          |
| 9. _____  | Boarding School |
| 10. _____ | Code Talkers    |



**Wreaths Across America  
Lesson Plan**

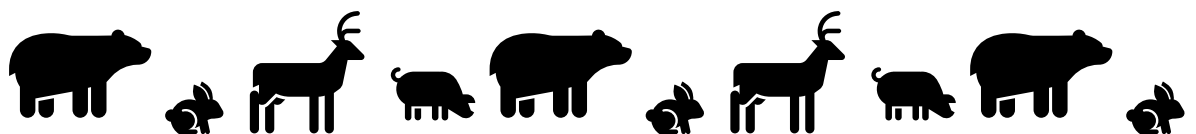
|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Teacher:                     | Date:   |
| Grade: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Lesson: American Indian Heritage Month<br>The Navajo Code Talkers |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Navajo Code Talkers

Directions: Put the words on the right in alphabetical order in the spaces on the left.

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <u>BOARDING SCHOOL</u> | Fort Defiance   |
| 2. <u>CODE TALKERS</u>    | Marine          |
| 3. <u>CORN POLLEN</u>     | Navajo Code     |
| 4. <u>DECODE</u>          | Recruiters      |
| 5. <u>FORT DEFIANCE</u>   | World War II    |
| 6. <u>MARINE</u>          | Radio           |
| 7. <u>NAVAJO</u>          | Corn Pollen     |
| 8. <u>RADIO</u>           | Decode          |
| 9. <u>RECRUITERS</u>      | Boarding School |
| 10. <u>WORLD WAR II</u>   | Code Talkers    |





# Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

|                              |   |
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Navajo Code Talkers served in World War I and World War II. In World War II, they created a code the Japanese could not break, helping to win the war.



# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

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### Find A Way to Serve

1. Draw pictures or make cards for servicemen and women overseas or veterans at a local VA Hospital or VA Home. [Operation Gratitude](#) sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.
2. Make cards for Senior citizens in your community for the various holidays. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
  - \* contacting local nursing homes, senior centers and VA Homes to determine the procedure they have for community involvement, the numbers of residents, etc.
  - \* setting up a calendar as a reminder for your child letting them know when holidays are coming.
  - \* providing materials: crayons, paper, coloring sheets for younger students
  - \* setting up a time for delivery of the cards to the facility, or help your child mail the cards at the Post Office.
3. Decorate placemats to be used for Senior citizens during the holidays with a special note or picture! Many agencies deliver meals to Seniors who have mobility problems and are on a fixed income. Teachers/Parents can help their children by:
  - \* contacting local agencies that provide meals for Seniors, coordinate with the agency to provide placemats for an upcoming holiday
  - \* talking with your child's teacher to see if this could be a classroom project
  - \* provide materials,
4. Donate gently used or new stuffed animals to a local fire department or police station to give to children in emergencies.
5. During your birthday month, donate cake mix, frosting, candles, and an age-appropriate toy in a box. Donate items to a local food pantry or school social worker for families in need of a birthday cake. Let your child decorate the bag/box with a birthday message. Parents can help their children by:
  - \* contacting a local food bank or their child's school to arrange a drop-off point
  - \* purchasing the items to donate
  - \* taking their child to be a part of the drop-off
6. Collect school supplies, coloring books/crayons or games to donate to local homeless shelters or local children's hospitals.
  - \* contacting a local food bank or their children's hospital to arrange a drop-off point
  - \* purchasing the items to donate
  - \* taking their child to be a part of the drop-off
7. Make a no-sew fleece blanket for a child in need with [Project Linus](#), or a Veteran in need with [Soldiers' Angels](#). Parents can help their children by:
  - \* log on to the Project Linus or Soldiers' Angels to check out the specifications for the blankets,
  - \* help their child purchase materials
  - \* help their child make the blanket if necessary
  - \* take their child to ship or deliver the blanket