

Reporting on Navajo Code Talkers

Middle and High School

4-5 Class Periods

Program Segment

- Image of Native Americans and Stereotypes (approximately 18 ½ minutes)

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Outline, summarize, and discuss the endurance of Native Americans in the progress of the United States.
- Explain the process of Native Americans being put into boarding schools and stripped of their culture.
- Understand and explain the actions taken to assimilate Native Americans, along with the effects of that assimilation on Native American tribes.
- Explain the historical circumstances, as well as the importance of the Code Talkers in the success of the war in the Pacific.



Instructional Resources

- *The Warrior Tradition*
- Candy
- Code Talkers Graphic Organizer
- Guidelines for news script

Procedures

4-5 CLASS PERIODS (break up where necessary)

1. As students walk into the classroom, have them turn in a personal item (cell phone/ear buds/ etc.).
2. Direct all students to stand in the back of the room in a straight line.
3. Direct the students who cooperated by turning in a personal item to go sit in a chair at a desk. As they are sitting, praise them and give them a piece of candy.
4. The students who would not participate will be just told to sit down – without praise or candy.
5. The teacher will initiate a class discussion by asking students:



How did it feel when you were asked to hand in a personal item or something that is important to you?

How did it feel when something you needed or part of you was taken away?

6. All students should participate in the class discussion, even those who did not cooperate. They should reflect on why they did not cooperate. Students who did hand an item in, can reflect on how that felt.
7. The teacher will ask students what they know or believe about Indian Boarding Schools, to check for prior knowledge. The teacher can summarize what the students will see in the segment from *The Warrior Tradition* that they are about to watch.
8. The teacher will then engage students in another classroom discussion, asking:
 - What does culture mean to you?*
 - Why is it important to preserve culture?*
 - What is "assimilation?"*
 - What examples of assimilation do you notice around you in your family, class, school, or neighborhood?*
9. The teacher should explain in detail the historical context of Native American boarding schools and the assimilation process, then distribute the Code Talkers Graphic Organizer.
10. Students will then watch the segment of *The Warrior Tradition* based on the Navajo Code Talkers. They will fill in the Code Talkers Graphic Organizer while watching it.
11. The teacher will assign groups of 2-3 students to create a script for a news broadcast based upon the Code Talkers.
12. The teacher will set up the classroom to appear as a news station for students to present their script. The students will present their script to the class in the role of a news anchor.

Assessment Tasks

- Students should actively participate in all the classroom discussions.
- Students will turn in a completed Code Talkers Graphic Organizer.
- Groups of students will turn in a news script.
- Students will present their news reports to the class.

Extension Activities (optional)

- The Code Talkers news broadcast, can be video recorded and uploaded to the teacher website.
- A website can be created solely for the news broadcasts.
- In place of the news broadcast, students may create a blog or a news story article.



National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies – Thematic Strands

1. Culture
4. Individual Development & Identity
5. Individuals, Groups & Institutions
6. Power, Authority & Governance
10. Civic Ideals & Practices

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Name: _____

Navajo Code Talkers

Use this graphic organizer as a guide to complete your 2-column notes. Be sure to write 2-3 important details in column 2 about each of the phrases in column 1.

Column 1	Column 2
Military -Joined -Recruited	
Gold Medals	
Top Secret	
Navajo Language	
Boarding School	



Navajo Code Talkers News Cast Guidelines

As a news anchor, it is essential to look into certain questions, be detailed, transition well, be creative, and use emotion.

Below is a list of guidelines to use for your newscast.

- Be sure to have a creative story headline, and opening lines to engage the viewers
- Use quotes from *The Warrior Tradition*, if you are able to.
- Guiding questions to help build the newscast:
 - During which war was code talking developed, and how?
 - What led to the Navajo's use of code?
 - Where were the code talkers recruited from?
 - Where were the code talkers trained? How were they trained? Who trained them?
 - What effect did the use of code talkers have on the war
 - What were the different feelings the Navajos experienced during this time?
 - Find at least one image for your newscast. Visuals are helpful when telling a story. You can also draw an image or a graphic/infographic.
 - Be sure that the anchor(s) sign off the newscast (presentation) with closing comments.