Activity Title: Native American Code Talkers in WWII

**Activity Objectives:** The student will understand the need for and the techniques utilized by Native American Code Talkers during World War II.

**TEKS:**

**4th Grade:**

113.15(b)(1)(B)

**U.S. History Since 1877:**

113.41(c)(2)(D), 113.41(c)(7)(E), 113.41(c)(7)(G)

**World History Studies:**

113.42(c)(12)

**AP U.S. History Curriculum Framework, page 70:**

III. A. and C.

**1. Introduction:**

To generate interest you can ask the students:

1. Who were the Code Talkers of World War II? Native Americans using their tribal languages.
2. What Indian tribes lived in this area? See map of Texas Indian Tribes.

Pass out the student handout with the alphabet and have the students write their initials out using the WWII Navajo Code. Select a few to say the Navajo words out loud and give the English translation.
The entire WWII Navajo code is also attached. The source website is:


2. **Lesson:** Use the provided PowerPoint presentation.

3. **Post lesson:** Ask the students:
   1. Which tribe provided the most code talkers for the U.S. military in WWII? **The Navajo.**
   2. Why couldn’t the Japanese break the Navajo code? **It was never written down and there were only a few non-Navajo who could speak the language fluently.**

   Time permitting you can ask more students to say their initials using the WWII Navajo code.

**Vocabulary:**

Intercept  Transmission  Decipher  Fluent  Complexity  Syntax  Tonal  Dialect  Surname

**Resources:** One copy of handout per student, computer, projector, screen

**Materials:** pencil and paper

**Technology Utilization:**

**Accommodations:**