

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

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:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-4.htm>

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: