Lesson Plan
3rd Grade
Navajo Code Talkers
The Unbreakable Code
Author-Sara Hoagland Hunter, Illustrator-Julia Miner
## Wreaths Across America
### Lesson Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lesson: The Unbreakable Code, the Navajo Code Talkers</td>
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<th>Grade: 3rd</th>
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### OBJECTIVES: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. |

### STRATEGIES: |
- Drawing/Coloring
- Writing
- K-W-L
- Collaboration
- Discussion Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

### MATERIALS: |
- Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board;
- Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Navajo Code Talkers K-W-L Worksheet;
- Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Graphic Organizer;
- Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Reflection Questions;
- Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Word Search Puzzle;
- Copies of the Write Your Name in Navajo Activity;
- Copies of the Navajo Code Breakers Coloring Sheet

### Engage: Hook the students |
- Handout copies of The Unbreakable Code K-W-L. Tell students to complete the What I Know and the What I Want to Know sections of the K-W-L(parts 1 and 2).

### Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations. |
- Students will complete the Graphic Organizer for *The Unbreakable Code* identifying the characters, setting, problems and solutions.
- Students will reflect on how the young Navajo children felt when they were removed from their homes and moved to boarding schools.
- Students will complete an activity utilizing the Navajo Code Language to write their first and last name.
- Students will complete *The Unbreakable Code* Word Search Puzzle. Students will complete the third part of the K-W-L. Handout copies of the Navajo Code Breakers Coloring Sheet

### Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students. |
- World War II
decipherintercept
- The Long Walk
diversityrecruits
- codeboarding schoolenlisted

### Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned. |
- Students will describe how the Navajo Code Talkers were willing to serve in the United States military, even though many had been treated badly. The student will explain the impact of the Navajo Code Talkers on the outcome of World War II.

### Evaluate: assessment. |
- Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.

### Enrichment/Service-Learning Project |
- 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.
Name_______________________

The Unbreakable Code Navajo Code Talkers

K-W-L

What I KNOW:                What I WANT to KNOW:      What I LEARNED:

Remember-Honor-Teach
The Unbreakable Code Graphic Organizer

**CHARACTERS**

**SETTING**

**PROBLEM**

**SOLUTION**

Name ____________________

3rd Grade

Remember-Honor-Teach
Reflection Questions  *The Unbreakable Code*

1. How would you feel if a stranger told you they changed your name, then they cut your hair, and took your clothes away?

2. How would it feel to be forced to speak a language that wasn’t yours?

3. What do you think life was like for families with children at the boarding school?

4. Why is it important to understand and value other cultures?
The Unbreakable Code Word Search

Name________________________

The Unbreakable Code, the Navajo Code Talkers

Navajo radio code talkers boarding school
Marines haircut bootcamp decode
recruits operations Our Mother Mt. Suribachi
Japanese flag ship wallet

Remember-Honor-Teach
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: [Name]
Date: [Date]
Grade: 3rd

Lesson: The Unbreakable Code, the Navajo Code Talkers

Name __________________________

Answer Key

The Unbreakable Code Word Search

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Navajo          radio          code talkers          boarding school
Marines         haircut         bootcamp          decode
recruits         operations      Our Mother         Mt. Suribachi
Japanese        flag            ship              wallet

Remember-Honor-Teach
### Write Your First & Last Name in Navajo Code Activity

For example, the name **Sally**:

Dibeh/Wol-la-chee/Dibeh-yazzi/Dibeh-yazzi/Tsah-as-zih

S          A          L          L          Y

**First Name:**

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

**Last Name:**

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

Remember-Honor-Teach
# Terms in English and Navajo language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alphabet (English)</th>
<th>Code language (English)</th>
<th>Code language (Navajo)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Besh-do-gliz</td>
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Code Talkers were of Native American decent and served in World War I and World War II. Their bravery and hard work helped the United States win World War II.
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

Remember-Honor-Teach