4th Grade Lesson Plan

The Unbreakable Code

The Navajo Code Talkers
**Wreaths Across America**  
**Lesson Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade: 4th Grade</td>
<td>Lesson: Navajo Code Talkers</td>
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**OBJECTIVES:**  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.3  
Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write/Pair/Share</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
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<td>Discussion Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Group</td>
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**MATERIALS:**  
Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Write-Pair-Share Activity; Copies of the Graphic Organizer for *The Unbreakable Code*; Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Discussion Questions; copies of the Navajo Code Talking Activity; Copies of the Navajo Code Using the English Alphabet; Copies of *The Unbreakable Code* Word Search Puzzle

**Engage:** Hook the students  
Hand out Write/Pair/Share Activity. **Write/Pair/Share Activity-Tell the students they will have 5 minutes to write their answer to the following question:** If the author wrote a sequel or a continuation of this story, what do you think the sequel would be about? At the end of 5 minutes, pair the students with a partner, tell the students to read their written response to their partner.

**Explore:** Students make sense of a concept through observations.  
Students will complete the Graphic Organizer for *The Unbreakable Code*. Students will reflect on *The Unbreakable Code* by answering the Discussion Questions.  
Students will complete an activity utilizing the Navajo Code to create messages about the Navajo Code Talkers from *The Unbreakable Code*. Students will complete *The Unbreakable Code* Word Search Puzzle.

**Explain:** Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.  
*The Unbreakable Code* is an example of **Historical Fiction**. Historical Fiction is set in a real place, during a recognizable time. The details and the action in the story can be a mix of actual events and ones from the author’s imagination. Characters can be pure fiction or based on real people.

**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 they 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.

*Remember-Honor-Teach*
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: __________________________  Date: __________________________

Grade: 4th Grade  Lesson: Navajo Code Talkers

Name______________________________

Write-Pair-Share

You will have 5 minutes to write your answer to the following question:
If the author wrote a sequel or a continuation of this story, what do you think the sequel would be about?
At the end of 5 minutes, you will be paired with a partner, you will read your answer to your partner and they will read their response to you. Write on the back if necessary.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

---cut here------------------------------------------------------------cut here--------------------------------------------------cut here---

Name______________________________

Write-Pair-Share

You will have 5 minutes to write your answer to the following question:
If the author wrote a sequel or a continuation of this story, what do you think the sequel would be about?
At the end of 5 minutes, you will be paired with a partner, you will read your answer to your partner and they will read their response to you. Write on the back if necessary.

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Remember-Honor-Teach
**Graphic Organizer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author:</th>
<th>Title:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Main Character(s):**

**Setting:**

**What is the main conflict?**

**Main Events:**
- 
- 
- 

**How was the main conflict resolved? What impact did the Navajo Code Talkers have on World War II?**

*Remember-Honor-Teach*
Name ________________________________

Discussion Questions for The Unbreakable Code

Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What do you think the author wanted you to learn from this text?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

2. Summarize this text in 2-4 sentences.

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

3. What would you have done differently from the main character?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

4. Think about an unusual detail in the text. Why do you think the author included it?

________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
Navajo Code Talking Activity

Directions: Using the Navajo Code Words, write three sentences about this story.
For example: Grandfather joined the Marines.
Goat-rabbit-ant-nut-deer-fox-ant-turkey-horse-elk-rabbit / jack-owl-ice-nut-elk-deer
turkey-horse-elk / Mouse-ant-rabbit-ice-nut-elk-sheep.

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
# Navajo Code Using the English Alphabet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alphabet (English)</th>
<th>Code language (English)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Ant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Cat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Kid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lamb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Nut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Quiver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Rabbit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Ute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Victor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Weasel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Yucca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>Zinc</td>
</tr>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
**The Unbreakable Code Word Search**

```
Q A R M T S U R I B A C H I
B O A R D I N G S C H O O L
Z W D S X E D C R O F U V T
R G I B Y H N U J D M R I F
E B O O T C A M P E K M O L
C L P H A I R C U T Q O D A
R A Z W S X E D C A R T E G
U F W A L L E T V L T H C G
I B Y H N U J M I K S E O K
T O J A P A N E S E H R D L
S P Q A Z W S M A R I N E S
O P E R A T I O N S P X E D
```

**Navajo Code Talkers**

<table>
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<th>code talkers</th>
<th>boarding school</th>
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<td>Marines</td>
<td>haircut</td>
<td>bootcamp</td>
<td>decode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recruits</td>
<td>operations</td>
<td>Our Mother</td>
<td>Mt. Suribachi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>flag</td>
<td>ship</td>
<td>wallet</td>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
Name______________________________

Answer Key

The Unbreakable Code Word Search

QARMTSURIBACHI
BOARDINGSCHOOL
ZWDXEDCROFUVT
RGBYHNJDMRIF
EBOTCAMPEKMO
CLPHAIRCUTQODA
RAZWSXEDCARTEG
UFWALLETVTLTHCG
IBYNJMIKSEOK
TOJAPANSESERHDRDL
SPQAZWSMARINES
OPERATIONSPEXD

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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 to your child letting them know when certain 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