

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

About This Website

SUBJECTS

- Government and Civics
- History
- Social Studies

KEY MESSAGE

For thousands of years, American Indian people have protected their communities and lands. “Warrior” is an English word that has come to describe those who provided such protection. However, their traditional roles involved more than fighting enemies. They cared for people and helped in many ways, in any time of difficulty. Despite everything that American Indians have endured in the past, the warrior tradition—the tradition of protecting their people—called many of them to serve in the United States military and in many capacities. Code talking was one of many forms of service and sacrifice performed by Native Americans.

Assessments

Teachers may elect to develop their own assessments for each chapter; however, suggested student tasks are provided. These tasks offer opportunities for students to practice and build the following skills: close reading and analysis (text-dependent questions); argumentative writing; and constructing questions. Student task worksheets and teacher instructions for each type of text are located within each chapter.

Content

Native Words, Native Warriors explores the lives and experiences of American Indian Code Talkers, the service members who used their traditional tribal languages to transmit secret messages for the United States military during World War I and World War II. The content focuses on the Code Talkers’ wartime experiences as well as their pre- and postwar lives. Their highly honored military achievements are placed in a larger cultural and historical context to encourage deeper appreciation of and respect for the complex and difficult challenges they faced as American Indian people of the twentieth century.

Recommended Use

This website is comprised of seven chapters. The website also includes a [collection gallery](#) that contains captioned photographs, maps, and documents from the website, as well as other primary sources to examine.

The website features several interactive features to encourage student interest and involvement. Because of its complexity, it is important to become familiar with the entire website content and navigation. It is recommended that students read and listen to the stories within each chapter. Students can examine the images on-screen and explore the gallery for additional images. Most of the images on the site can be printed.

Teachers may decide to use all elements of the website or focus on one or two chapters. For example, while the *Boarding Schools* chapter presents the topic of boarding schools in the context of Native American Code Talkers, students could analyze the sources in this chapter to better understand the troubling and complicated history of boarding schools in U.S. history. Or a teacher might choose to have students focus only on the wartime experiences of Native American Code Talkers by just spending time in the *Code Talkers* chapter. Additional guidance for using this website is included in the teacher materials for each chapter.

Teacher Tip: The constructing-questions tasks are the most sophisticated of the student materials and are appropriate for those students who demonstrate a readiness to build their own questions about an enduring issue or challenge from the chapter.