

Teacher Inquiry Kit: Grades K-5

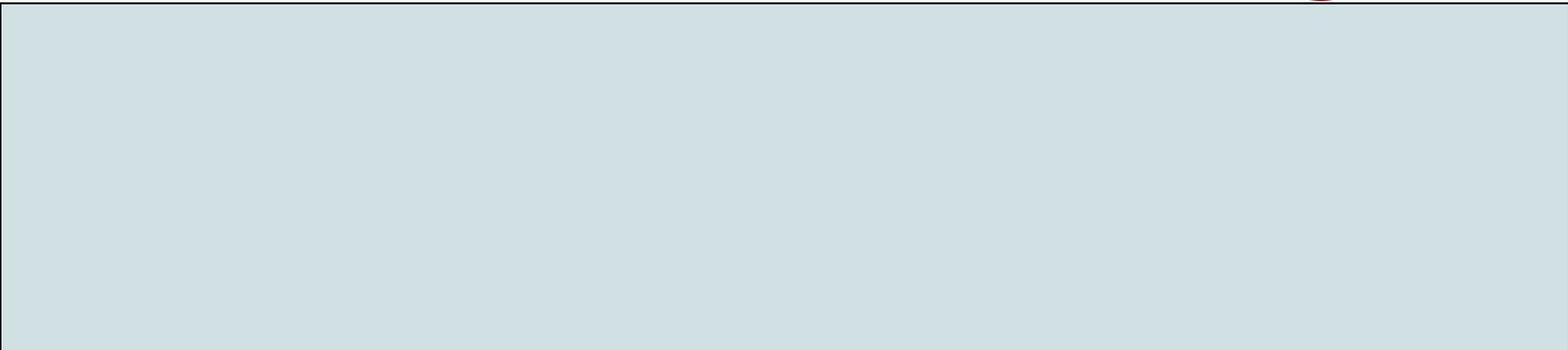
Donald Fisher

Title	Chief Three Bears: A Wampanoag Story of Resiliency
Author(s)	U'ilani Chai
Grade Level	K-5
Soldier	Donald Fisher
Tribal Affiliation	Cherokee/Wampanoag (Veteran's biographical form)
Branch of Service	Army
Dates of Service	1950-1967
Essential Question	How did serving in the U.S. Army strengthen Donald Fisher's Native American identity and impact his life after the war?
Contextual Paragraph	Chief Three Bears, Donald Fisher was born on May 27, 1933, in Providence, Rhode Island. He is the youngest of seven siblings. His grandfather is Cherokee and shortened their name from Kingfisher to

Fisher. Fisher's parents were both Native American, his father is Wampanoag, and his mother is from a small tribe from New Jersey. Fisher grew up in Providence and was working as a mechanic when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1950. His three older brothers were also drafted into the U.S. Army. But Fisher was not exempt from being drafted because the law was created after he was drafted. Fisher was not excited about being drafted because he was always being promoted in his job and was managing thirteen people. After being drafted, Fisher attended basic training at Fort Dix. Out of two-hundred soldiers, only four men were sent to military police school. He then went to Fort Niagara and trained for six months. After his training as a military police officer, he was sent to Korea, where he served in the Korean War from 1950-1953. His main responsibility during the Korean War was to guard and protect a U.S. General while in the combat zone. When not guarding the General, he performed military police duties. Fisher stated, "war is war", when you serve in a war you experience casualties no matter if you are on the frontlines or experiencing combat from a ½ mile away. After Korea, Fisher transferred to Germany. He enjoyed playing the guitar and put together a band, that's where he befriended Elvis Presley. Fisher shared about the discrimination he endured while serving in the U.S. Army for 17 years. During his time going between Korea and Japan, Fisher married a Japanese woman in Japan. After getting married he noticed he was treated differently, during morning inspections he would be reprimanded for no reason. He was passed up for promotions his entire military career, his highest rank was a Specialist Four. Fisher finally could not stand the disrespect and was going to get out of the U.S. Army, but he was court martialed over \$500 and given an honorable discharge.

After returning home, Fisher worked as a foreman for two years but then suffered a stroke which left him permanently disabled. He then began to learn Algonquin languages of his Wampanoag people. Chief Three Bears studied under the friendship and mentorship of Spotted Eagle, the Supreme Medicine Man of the Wampanoag Nation. He later became one of the founders of and taught the Nipmuc dialect at the newly established Algonquin School. Fisher established the Dighton Oak Council, was 1st Chief, language teacher for the Eastern Medicine Singers, and Chief of the Healing Spiritual Clan of Providence Veterans Affairs (VA). Chief Three Bears received acknowledgement by the United States Congress for Life's American Indian Achievement Award. In 2006, the Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe, at their Naming Ceremony presented him with the prestigious honor, "The Pipe of Peace. The Seaconke Wampanoag Cultural Committee recognized Fisher for his outstanding and

	<p>significant contributions to the sustainability of the cultural heritage. Donald Fisher displayed his resiliency by never giving up when faced with adversity. Fisher says, “always stand up for what’s right, speak truth even if it hurts”.</p>
Common Core State Standards and C3 Standards	<p>C3 Standards: https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3 D2.His.2.K-2. Compare life in the past to life today D2.His.9.K-2. Identify different kinds of historical sources</p>
Primary Source 1: Permanent Link	<p>Interview with Donald Fisher</p>
	
Title of Primary Source	<p>Veterans History Project: Interview with Donald Fisher (29:52)</p>
Suggested questions for the source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where was Mr. Fisher from? • What was Mr. Fisher’s job in the Army? • What was one thing you learned? • What is one thing you wonder about the war?
Primary Source 2: Permanent Link	<p>Interview with Donald Fisher</p>



Title of Primary Source

Interview with Donald Fisher: clip: Pulled over by a policeman when giving a Woman’s Army Corps member a ride to Washington D.C.

Suggested questions for the source

- Where was Mr. Fisher traveling to?
- What happened to Mr. Fisher?
- How do you think Mr. Fisher felt? Share about a time you felt frightened or scared?
- Do you think the police should have stopped Mr. Fisher? Why or why not?

Primary Source 3 Permanent Link

[Donald Fisher Collection](#)



Title of Primary Source

Portrait of Fisher Wearing his Army Military Police Uniform

Suggested questions for the source (3-5)

- Describe what you see in the photograph.
- When do you think this photograph was taken?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was Mr. Fisher’s job in the U.S. Army?
<p>Primary Source 4 Permanent Link</p> 	<p>Donald Fisher Collection</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>Fisher Wearing Traditional Dress</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source (3-5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you see in the picture? • What is happening in the photograph? • What do you notice about Three Bears traditional clothing? What colors do you see? • Where was this photograph taken?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is special clothing or dress you use from your culture? Share when and where you use it. • What are traditional dances you do from your culture?
<p>Primary Source 5 Permanent Link</p>	<p>YouTube: Three Bears Name</p>

	
Title of Primary Source	3 Bears: Elder Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe
Suggested questions for the source (3-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you see in the video? • What is Mr. Fisher’s Wampanoag name? • How did he get his name? • What will happen to his name if he does bad things?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the story of your name. • Is your name important? Why or why not?
Works Cited	<p>Chapincito Media (2015) Chapincito: 3 Bears [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjrlT5pD3AY</p> <p>Chapincito Media (2015) First they have to have respect [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUB2TOE2tpc</p> <p>Fisher, Donald. Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center. Library of Congress, 2014. Video. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, < https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/bib/loc.natlib.afc2001001.95625 ></p>