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Teacher Inquiry Kit Overview

Title	Roy O. Hawthorne: The life and service of a Navajo Code Talker Oral History Interview
Author(s)	Laura Douglas
Grade Level	Elementary, K-5
Soldier	Roy O. Hawthorne
Tribal Affiliation	Navajo/Diné
Branch of Service	Marine Corps, Army
Dates of Service	World War II, 1943-1945; Korean War 1950-1953
Essential Question	How did Roy O. Hawthorne's time in the service and his work as a Code Talker influence his life after retiring from the military?
Contextual Paragraph	Roy O. Hawthorne was born in 1926 in Ganado, Arizona. His mother, Desbah was Navajo and his father Orville was white. His parents sold Navajo arts and crafts at the trading post on the Navajo reservation, and he grew up speaking English and Navajo. Mr. Hawthorne's childhood dream was to go into the military. He enlisted in the Marine Corp in June 1943 at 17 years old before completing high school. Several of his brothers had already gone into the army, 3 of which were also Code Talkers. He wanted to enlist in the submarine service, because he was reading Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea; but the US government required all Navajo men go into the Marine Corps.


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	<p>Mr. Hawthorne was assigned to Camp Pendleton communication school in CA where he learned all aspects of communication. He was also cross training in general Marine duties and weapon use. After his training at Camp Pendleton, he was deployed to Guadalcanal and Okinawa.</p> <p>In the oral history video resource below, Mr. Hawthorne recounted his role in intense fighting on Dakeshi Ridge in Okinawa where he called in a critical air strike using the Navajo Code. Mr. Hawthorne was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1946. He enlisted in the Army Airborne two years later where he became a paratrooper and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant.</p> <p>During his time in the Korean War, he experienced the Chinese Spring Offensive of 1951 before he was wounded in the leg by shrapnel from a mortar round. Doctors amputated Hawthorne’s right leg at the knee, and he spent one year at Walter Reed Hospital. But he persevered and continued working in Army communications for several more years after the Korean War.</p> <p>Mr. Hawthorne used the GI Bill and received his Bachelors and Masters degrees. After being medically retired from the military, he completed seminary school, and became a Baptist pastor. He was a preacher for 48 years.</p> <p>Mr. Hawthorne also served as a tribal police officer, and was highly involved in the Navajo Code Talkers Association. Mr. Hawthorne married his wife before he went to Korea and, as of 2015, they had been married for 53 years. They had 5 children – 4 sons and 1 daughter.</p>
<p>C3 Standards</p>	<p>C3 Standards: https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3</p> <p>D2.His.3.3-5. Generate questions about individuals and groups who have shaped significant historical changes and continuities.</p> <p>D2.His.4.K-2. Compare perspectives of people in the past to those of people in the present.</p>

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<p>Primary Source: Permanent Link</p> 	<p>https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.52528/mv0001001.stream?start=39</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>Veterans History Project: Interview with Roy O. Hawthorne</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) What was Mr. Hawthorne's dream career when he was young? Did he achieve this? What book influenced his dream? 2.) Mr. Hawthorne met one of his cousins while serving in Okinawa. Why did he think this was interesting? What does this tell you about the reservations where many Navajo people lived? 3.) How did Mr. Hawthorne's injury and the amputation of his leg influence his time in the military? How did it impact his life after leaving the military? 4.) Mr. Hawthorne felt that his overall military experience was helpful. Give three examples of Mr. Hawthorne's experiences where this was true. 5.) Why didn't Mr. Hawthorne and the other Code Talkers have any rank in the military? Did he think this was fair? Do you think this was fair?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<p>How did Mr. Hawthorne and the other Navajo Code Talkers demonstrate courage and intelligence during WWII? Give specific examples.</p>
<p>Secondary Source: Permanent Link</p>	<p>https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2018/04/23/wwii-navajo-code-talker-roy-hawthorne-sr-dies-arizona-92/544509002/</p>

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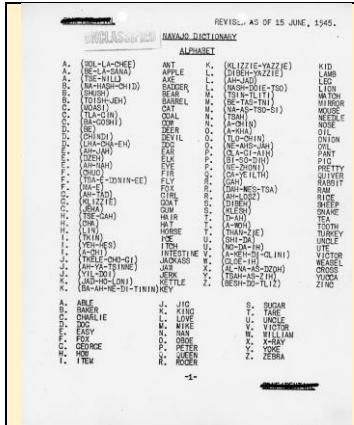
	
<p>Title of Secondary Source</p>	<p>In this September 28, 2015, file photo, former United States Marine and Navajo Code Talker Roy O. Hawthorne Sr listens during a ceremony honoring the Code Talker's contribution to the WWII U.S. effort, at Camp Pendleton, California. <i>Lenny Ignelzi/AP</i></p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) How old was Mr. Hawthorne when he died? 2.) How do you spell "ENEMY" in Navajo? 3.) Listen to the interview with Mr. Hawthorne included with this newspaper article. What is the English word and the Navajo Code word for something that flies at night, is quiet and doesn't carry armament? 4.) Why did the Code Talkers have to make up words for military equipment? How did they do this? What does two irons refer to in military terms? 5.) What do you want to know about Mr. Hawthorne that was not included in this article? Where could you go to find this information?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the family members of the Code Talkers not know about their role in WWII? What impact did this have on the lives of the Code Talkers? • Did Mr. Hawthorne consider himself a hero? Do you think he was a hero? Explain.
<p>Primary Source Permanent Link</p>	<p>https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/code-talkers/code-talking/ from Chapter 4: Code Talking</p>



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Title of Primary Source

Alphabet Code from the Navajo dictionary used by Code Talkers. It is just one of seventeen pages that the Code Talkers had to memorize. Alphabet code from a Navajo dictionary, revised June 15, 1945. Reproduction courtesy of the Marine Corps History Division, Quantico, Virginia. Original from the National Archives and Records Administration.

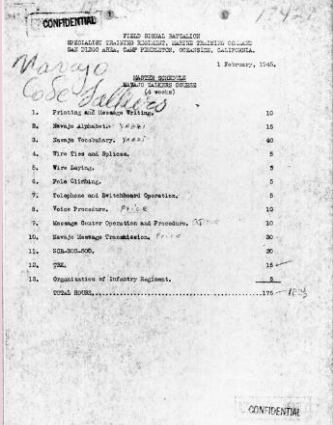
Suggested questions for the source (3-5)

- 1.) What are the Navajo code words for kid, lamb and sheep? Why do you think these words are similar?
- 2.) Why is it good to use codes during a war? What might happen if the code was solved by the enemy? Or what could happen if a Navajo Code Talker made an error and used the wrong word?
- 3.) Why is the Navajo language so difficult for English speakers to learn?
- 4.) Listen to the audio of the Navajo Code. Have you ever heard any of these words in English? Or in another language? Describe how they sound to you.
- 5.) Describe the difference between Type One Code and Type Two Code. Which do you think would be easier to learn and use?


Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)

- Navajo code is made up from words in the Navajo language to describe military phrases. For example, the Navajo code word for ships was "Toh-Dineh-ih," which means sea force, iron fish means, and hummingbird means helicopter. Discuss why it makes sense to call a submarine an iron fish and a helicopter a hummingbird. What military equipment might be called a shark? Who do you think "silver oak leaf" was referring to?


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Navajo Dictionary Alphabet to make your own code to describe things at your home and at your school.
<p>Primary Source Permanent Link</p> 	<p>http://archive.library.nau.edu/digital/collection/cpa/id/44817 starting on page 12</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>The master schedule of the Navajo Talkers Course from February 1, 1945. The Code Talkers' training was very demanding and required a lot of mental preparation. Master schedule, Navajo Talkers Course, February 1, 1945.</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source (3-5)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Why was it important for Navajo Code Talkers to be trained in wire laying, pole climbing and the organization of the infantry regiment as well as Navajo alphabet and vocabulary? 2.) Thinking about different communication tools during WWII, what is wire laying, pole climbing and switchboard operation? Find an image and write a definition of each. 3.) Why was it important for all Navajo Code Talkers to have the same training in communication? 4.) How did Code Talkers get their communication devices from location to location?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think about Mr. Hawthorne's Library of Congress interview. How does this primary source schedule coincide with his experience at Camp Pendleton? According to him, what other military and communication training did he receive while there?


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did communication look like before cell phones? Make a list of different communication devices that were used during WWII and how they worked? What do you think communication devices will look like in 25 years? In 50 years?
<p>Primary Source Permanent Link</p> 	<p>Place the link of your primary source here. https://www.dvidshub.net/news/79570/americas-secret-weapon-navajo-code-talkers</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>America's secret weapon: Navajo Code Talkers - Photo By Cpl. Alexandra Vazquez A Navajo Code Talker relays a message on a field radio. The code talkers served in the South Pacific during World War II and were kept a secret until 1968 when the Navajo code was finally declassified.</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source (3-5)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Other than by reading the photo caption, how can you tell this soldier is a Navajo Code Talker? Is this good or bad? Why? 2.) What can you tell about this soldier from the clothing and gear that he is wearing? 3.) How many communication devices can you see in this photo? 4.) Based on this article, what were three reasons using the Navajo language and the Navajo Code Talkers was a good idea during WWII? 5.) According to the article, what was the weapon of the Navajo Code Talkers? Was this an effective weapon? Why?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the primary resources that you've examined, name three reasons that the Navajo language was a particularly effective code during World War II. Was the Navajo Code ever deciphered by the Japanese? • Consider this article and Mr. Hawthorne discussing the importance of code in his interview.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it important to use code? Why is communication important during a war? How could troops communicate if communication systems were knocked out. • Compare and contrast Navajo code with other code such as semaphore and Morse Code. How are they similar? How are they different? Why was it important for Navajo Code Talkers to know all of these code languages?
<p>Primary Source: Permanent Link</p> 	<p>https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/snapshot/unbreakable-navajo-code</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>JT Willie (J.T. Willie), Diné (Navajo). "Dine Bizaad yee Nidaazbaa'igii: A Tribute to Our Navajo Code Talkers." 2015. Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Describe the images on this bag. What do they represent? 2.) What do you think this bag was used for? 3.) What do the Navajo words on the bag translate to in English? 4.) Why do you think the person represented on the bag is wearing yellow and red? Think about photos that you've seen of Navajo Code Talkers. Why do you think they are wearing red and yellow uniforms?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<p>Why do we create clothing and bags with images of historical events and people? Do you use or wear anything with images of historical events and people?</p>
<p>Primary Source: Permanent Link</p>	<p>http://projects.leadr.msu.edu/firststoryna/items/show/37</p>

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<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>Navajo Code Talkers Commemorative Coin; reproduction of Congressional Gold Medal awarded to remaining Navajo Code Talkers in 2001.</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Describe the image in the Navajo Code Talkers Commemorative Coin. Does it accurately represent the work of the Navajo Code Talkers? 2.) Which US President signed into Public Law the statute that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to Navajo Code Talkers? 3.) How many gold medals were awarded and how many silver medals were awarded to Navajo Code Talkers? 4.) Who received the gold medals and who received the silver ones? 5.) Why did the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush, not recognize the Navajo people who served in the military?



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Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The phrase on the back of the medal is in the Navajo language and translates to, "With the Navajo language they defeated the enemy." What does this phrase mean and do you agree? • Why were Navajo Code Talkers not recognized with Congressional Medals until 2000?
Primary Source: Permanent Link	https://www.navymemorial.org/tales-from-the-navy-log/2020/8/14/talking-code-honoring-service-remembering-the-navajo-code-talkers
Title of Primary Source	Talking Code, Honoring Service: Remembering the Navajo Code Talkers
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) How were the Navajo Code Talkers treated after the war? 2.) When is Navajo Code Talker Day celebrated? Which US President established this day? 3.) According to this article, how many American Indians served in WWII and how many died? 4.) When did American Indians first start serving as military Code Talkers? 5.) What event led to using American Indian language as code?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Navajo Code Talker program was declassified in 1968. What does declassify mean? Why did it take 20+ years to declassify the program? How did this contribute to the discrimination of the Navajo people? • Think back to the interview with Mr. Hawthorne. As a young man in the military, did Mr. Hawthorne think he experienced discrimination? Did he believe the same thing later in life? What injustices did he and other Navajo Code Talkers experience before, during and after WWII?
Works Cited	<p>"Chapter 4: Code Talking -- Intelligence and Bravery." <i>National Museum of the American Indian</i>, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, 2020, https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/code-talkers/code-talking/</p> <p>"Legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers." National Park Service, August 13, 2018, https://www.nps.gov/articles/navajo-code-talkers.htm</p>

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