

Teacher Inquiry Kit: Grade 6-12

Lori Ann Piestewa

Title	Lori Ann Piestewa's Legacy
Author(s)	Ellen Baumler
Grade Level	6-12
Soldier	Lori Piestewa
Tribal Affiliation	Hopi
Branch of Service	Army, 507th Maintenance Company, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
Dates of Service	2001-2003
Essential Question	What was Lori Piestewa's sacrifice and how is she remembered?
Contextual Paragraph	<p>Lori Ann Piestewa was born on December 14, 1979, at Tuba City in northern Arizona on the Navajo Reservation. Her father is Hopi and her mother Mexican American. Tuba City is near the Hopi village of Moenkopi and many Hopis call Tuba City home. Lori's Hopi name, given to her as a youngster, was Kocha-Hon-Mana. It means "White Bear Girl."</p> <p>Lori's parents raised her to respect her family and heritage. In high school she was an athlete and ROTC leader but never wanted to be in the spotlight. By the time she was 22, Lori was a divorced mother of two young children. Jobs on the reservation were few and Lori wanted to be independent. The Army offered her the opportunity to financially care for her children and</p>

eventually go to college. Military service was part of her heritage. Her father was a Vietnam veteran and her grandfather a veteran of WWII. Lori joined the Army in October 2001 and left her children in her parents' care.

When her unit was deployed to Iraq, Lori was recovering from surgery on an injured shoulder. She was not supposed to go with her unit. Living up to her Hopi name, White Bear Girl was strong willed and determined to fulfill her obligation to her country. She convinced her superiors that she had recovered and was fit to serve. Her parents had little notice but went to great lengths drive from Arizona to Fort Bliss, Texas to see her off. They were very glad they made that effort.

Not long after her deployment, Lori was driving a heavy, slow-moving Humvee in a supply convoy. The slower vehicles became separated from the faster, lighter ones. On March 23, 2003, the slower moving convoy took a wrong turn. Lori's roommate, Pfc Jessica Lynch, was ahead driving a truck with a trailer. When Jessica's vehicle broke down, Lori stopped and picked her up. The wrong turn led the convoy into hostile territory and the town of Nasiriyah. Ambushed and under fire, a grenade hit Lori's Humvee and it crashed. Lori, Jessica, and a third soldier were seriously injured and three others in the Humvee were killed. The three injured were captured and taken to a hospital.

Lori died of her injuries, but Jessica survived and returned to the States amidst rumors and propaganda on the part of the US government. Jessica was falsely portrayed as a "female Rambo," killing many Iraqi soldiers. In fact, she never fired her weapon. Jessica later told the real story and called Lori the hero.

Lori was posthumously promoted from Private First Class to Specialist and awarded the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal. She was the first Native American woman killed in combat and the first American woman killed in the Iraq War. Among other honors, a local mountain peak was renamed after her and in 2018, Lori was one of the first twelve Native American veterans inducted into the National Native American Hall of Fame.

<p>C3 Standards</p>	<p>C3 Standards: https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3</p> <p>D2.Geo.2.6-8. Use maps, satellite images, photographs, and other representations to explain relationships between the locations of places and regions, and changes in their environmental characteristics.</p> <p>D2.Geo.8.9-12. Evaluate the impact of economic activities and political decisions on spatial patterns within and among urban, suburban, and rural regions</p> <p>D2.Soc.2.9-12. Define social context in terms of the external forces that shape human behavior.</p> <p>D2.Soc.7.9-12. Cite examples of how culture influences the individuals in it</p> <p>D2.His.3.6-8. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to analyze why they, and the developments they shaped, are seen as historically significant</p>
<p>Primary Source 1: Permanent Link</p> 	<p>Place the link of your primary source here.</p> <p>Native Americans The United States Army</p>

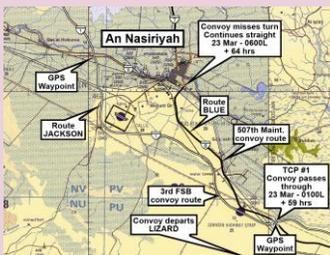
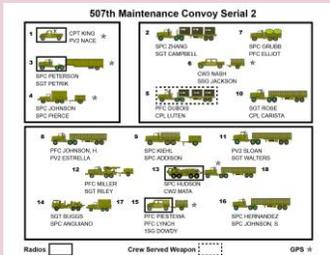
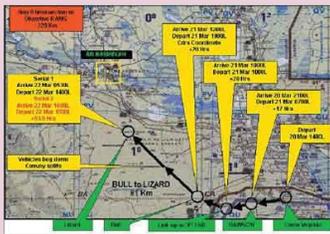
Title of Primary Source	"Lori Piestewa: The First American Indian Woman to Die in Combat on Foreign Soil"
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was it important for Lori's family to go to such lengths to see her before deployment? 2. What is unusual about Lori's story? 3. How has Lori's passing brought indigenous groups, other than her own Hopi tribe, together? 4. Why was the Eagle Dance a fitting tribute to Lori?
Secondary Source 2: Permanent Link	What about Private Lori? Iraq The Guardian
Title of Secondary Source	"What about Private Lori?"
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the US military perpetuate stereotypes of Native Americans? 2. What would be one justification for reinstating the draft? 3. Why do so many men and women of minority groups join the service? 4. How did Lori's community show support for her during the time she was missing?
Primary Source 3 Permanent Link 	A Tribute to Lori Ann Piestewa, A Native American Hero and the first American woman killed in Iraq musical tribute
Title of Primary Source	"Tribute to Lori Ann Piestewa"

Suggested questions for the source (3-5)

1. Scroll down to listen to the first song. How does the artist describe Lori's spirit?
2. What was the former name of the mountain named after Lori? Was the original name appropriate?
3. What was Lori's nickname?
4. What does the musician/author of the song recall when he sees the mountain looking back at him?
5. What is the musician/artist's purpose in composing this song?

**Primary Source 4
Permanent Link**

[On Point - The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom \(globalsecurity.org\)](http://globalsecurity.org)



Title of Primary Source

"The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom"

<p>Suggested questions for the source (3-5)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scroll down to Figure 84 and look at the link in the caption to enlarge the image. The map shows the route of the 507th supply convoy from its origin. What date did the convoy leave and what was the point of origin? 2. How many hours did it take to get to Lizard and what happened to the convoy between Bull and Lizard? 3. Scroll down to Figure 85. Enlarge it. How many vehicles were in the convoy and in what position was Pfc Piestewa's Humvee? 4. Scroll down to Figure 86. Enlarge it. Find the place on the map where the lead vehicle made a wrong turn. How do you think a competent person could make such a mistake and what were the far-reaching consequences?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<p>People are not infallible and sometimes make mistakes that have terrible consequences. Can you think of other examples where one mistake affected many others?</p>
<p>Primary Source 5 Permanent Link</p> 	<p>Operation Iraqi Freedom a Brief History - Gear Up Surplus (gearupfl.com)</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>"Operation Iraqi Freedom: A Brief History"</p>
<p>Suggested questions for the source (3-5)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did President George Bush authorize war with Iraq? 2. When did Operation Iraqi Freedom officially begin and how soon after that did Lori become the first female casualty? 3. How many years did this conflict last?

Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	Some believe that the US government should not interfere in foreign conflicts such as Vietnam and Afghanistan. Do you believe the US was justified in these actions? Why or why not?
Primary Source 6: Permanent Link	A conversation with Jessica Lynch, part 1 of 2 - Bing video
Title of Primary Source	"A Conversation with Jessica Lynch"
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How were Lori and Jessica connected? 2. Why does Jessica believe that Lori was a hero? 3. How does Jessica explain the confusion surrounding her experiences? 4. In what way is Jessica Lynch's story important to Lori Piestewa's legacy?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	Why would the US government make up a story that is not true and widely publicize it?
Primary Source 7: Permanent Link 	Lori Ann Piestewa (1979-2003) - Find a Grave Memorial
Title of Primary Source	"Lori Ann Piestewa (1979-2003)"
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From this photo of Lori's grave, how can you tell that she was a veteran? 2. What else can you tell about Lori by looking at her gravesite? 3. Why would so many people leave her tributes?

Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	Why is a gravesite important?
Primary Source 8: Permanent Link	Remembering Lori Ann Piestewa: Hopi Woman Warrior - Indian Country Today
Title of Primary Source	"Remembering Lori Ann Piestewa: Hopi Woman Warrior"
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was the renaming of the Piestewa Peak controversial? 2. How have Lori's children benefited from her story? 3. What is Lori's legacy and why is it so surprising? 4. Why is Lori considered a Hopi warrior?
Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)	When tragedies happen to people who are not famous, what can family and friends do to keep the person from being forgotten?
Works Cited	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native Americans in the U.S. Army, "Lori Piestewa 2003: The First American Indian Woman to Die in Combat on Foreign Soil," Honor Profiles, U.S. Army, n.d, Native Americans The United States Army 2. Gary Younge, "What About Private Lori?" <i>The Guardian</i>, U.S. edition, April 21, 2003, What about Private Lori? Iraq The Guardian 3. Ray Powell, "A Salute to Lori," Fifth Annual Memorial Events for Lori Piestewa and our Fallen Heroes and their Mothers and Family Members, Piestewa Memorial Committee, March 2007, A Tribute to Lori Ann Piestewa, A Native American Hero and The first American woman killed in Iraq 4. Center for Army Lessons Learned, "March Up-County," Chapter 4, <i>The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom</i>, 2004, On Point - The United States Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom (globalsecurity.org)

5. Gear Up Surplus, "Operation Iraqi Freedom: A Brief History," August 19, 2020, [Operation Iraqi Freedom a Brief History - Gear Up Surplus \(gearupfl.com\)](#)
6. Beth Voorhees, "A Conversation with Jessica Lynch Part 1," West Virginia Broadcasting, YouTube, May 3, 2007, [A conversation with Jessica Lynch, part 1 of 2 - Bing video](#)
7. Steve Edquist, "Lori Ann Piestewa," Find a Grave, April 5, 2003, [Lori Ann Piestewa \(1979-2003\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)
8. Patti Jo King, Remembering Lori Ann Piestewa," *Indian Country Today*, April 13, 2011 (updated September 13, 2018), [Remembering Lori Ann Piestewa: Hopi Woman Warrior - Indian Country Today](#)