

Teacher Inquiry Kit: Grade K-5

Lori Ann Piestewa

Title	Lori Piestewa's Legacy
Author(s)	Ellen Baumler
Grade Level	K-5
Soldier	Lori Ann 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 single mother with two young children. There were very few jobs on the reservation and Lori wanted to be able to support her children and maybe go to college. The Army offered her that opportunity. Military service</p>

was part of her family heritage since her father was a Vietnam veteran and her grandfather was a veteran of WWII. Lori joined the Army in October 2001 and left her children with her parents.

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. Lori's personality was like the bear in her Hopi name, strong willed and determined. She convinced her superiors that she had fully recovered, and they gave permission for her to go with her unit. Her parents made the very long drive from Arizona to Texas to see her off. They were very glad because that was the last time, they saw their daughter.

Soon after her deployment, Lori was in Iraq, 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 leader of Lori's group took a wrong turn. Lori's roommate, Pfc Jessica Lynch, was ahead driving a heavy truck and trailer. When Jessica's vehicle broke down, Lori stopped and picked her up. The wrong turn led the convoy into town of Nasiriyah. Lori and her group were ambushed. 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. Her friend Jessica survived and returned to the States. The US government made up a story that Jessica was a hero and killed many Iraqi soldiers. In fact, Jessica never fired her weapon. Jessica later told the real story and called Lori the hero.

After her death, Lori was 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.

C3 Standards	<p>C3 Standards: https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3</p> <p>D3.1.3-5. Gather relevant information from multiple sources while using the origin, structure, and context to guide the selection</p> <p>D2.His.14.3-5. Explain probable causes and effects of events and development</p>
Primary Source 1: Permanent Link 	<p>Native Americans The United States Army</p>
Title of Primary Source	<p>“Lori Piestewa: The First American Indian Woman to Die in Combat on Foreign Soil”</p>
Suggested questions for the source	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do Lori’s family urge other families to make the effort to see their children before deployment? 2. In what way has Lori become an ambassador of Native American Culture? 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? 5. What is the meaning of the caption on the hat Lori’s father was wearing?

Primary Source 2: Permanent Link	What about Private Lori? Iraq The Guardian
Title of Primary 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)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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?

<p>Primary Source 4 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 was 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?
<p>Possible discussion prompts beyond the questions. (2)</p>	<p>Some believe that the US government should not interfere in foreign conflicts such as Vietnam and Afghanistan. Do you believe the US is justified in these actions? Why or why not?</p>
<p>Primary Source 5 Permanent Link</p> 	<p>Lori Ann Piestewa (1979-2003) - Find a Grave Memorial</p>
<p>Title of Primary Source</p>	<p>“Lori Ann Piestewa (1979-2003)”</p>

Suggested questions for the source (3-5)	<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 6: 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?
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. Gear Up Surplus, "Operation Iraqi Freedom: A Brief History," August 19, 2020, [Operation Iraqi Freedom a Brief History - Gear Up Surplus \(gearupfl.com\)](https://www.gearupfl.com/operation-iraqi-freedom-a-brief-history)
5. Steve Edquist, "Lori Ann Piestewa," Find a Grave, April 5, 2003, [Lori Ann Piestewa \(1979-2003\) - Find a Grave Memorial](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/100000000/lori-ann-piestewa)
6. 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](https://www.indiancountrytoday.com/remembering-lori-ann-piestewa-hopi-woman-warrior)