

Code Talkers: Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code Late Elementary (3rd - 5th)

Time: 45 minutes/1 day

Lesson Overview: A context for understanding Code Talkers and narrative of the life of Chester Nez

Relevant New Mexico Social Studies Standards:

- 3.13.** Explain how world events impact New Mexico and the United States, both in the past and present.
- 4.25.** Participate in inquiry of other people's lives and experiences while demonstrating respect and empathy for others.
- 5.31.** Explain how the treatment of groups of people in the past and present impacts who they are.

Relevant Santa Fe Public Schools Priority Standards:

- 3.13.** Explain how world events impact New Mexico and the United States, both in the past and present.

Required Materials:

Introductory [Slide Show](#)

[Read aloud of Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talkers Story](#)

Learning Objective: Students will be able to explain the context of Code Talkers in New Mexico history.

Special Vocabulary:

- Marines: a part of the US army (review)
- Code: a system for one word, symbol, or letter to mean something else; the purpose is to keep a secret (review)
- Victory: winning a battle, war, or game (review)
- Sacred: very special, something we respect; might be a part of religion or culture
- Honor: showing someone how valuable/important they are

Procedures:

Warm Up/Introduction Activity:

Review 7 continents

Display map of the world; list as many languages as the class can think of

Use slides to make connections between language and geography

Lesson:

Listen to Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talkers Story; this can be done either as a whole class or individually

Wrap Up:

- Think/Pair/Share:
 - If you were forced to only speak another language, how would you feel?
 - Why is it important to maintain (keep) our native languages?