“Tsaaku nunnuwee—We made a good landing”

The Comanche Code Talkers and D-Day

Activity Packet
Thank you for choosing to participate in a livestreaming program with the National D-Day Memorial, the only memorial in the United States dedicated to the valor, fidelity, and sacrifice of the Allied Forces on June 6, 1944.

One of the primary goals of the National D-Day Memorial is to educate students and the public about the role of individual service men and women during World War II, the sacrifices made by families and communities during the war, and the critical significance of D-Day for the 21st century.

This Activity Guide is designed to complement your livestreaming program and curriculum with activities and lessons that are engaging. As you go through these activities and prepare for the program, let us know if there is anything we can do to help!

Sincerely,

National D-Day Memorial
Education Department
education@dday.org
(800) 351 - DDAY

Content:
- Glossary
- Pre-Program Activities and Lessons
- Post-Program Activities and Lessons

Curriculum Standards Covered:

Common Core:
CCSS.CC.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2, 9-10.1-2, 11-12.1-3

Virginia Standards of Learning:
USII.1.a, USII.1.c, USII.1.d, USII.1.f, USII.1.g, USII.1.h, USII.1.i, USII.7.a, USII.7.b, CE.3.c, WHII.1.a, WHII.1.b, WHII.1.c, WHII.1.d, WHII.1.f, WHII.1.g, WHII.1.h, WHII.11.b, WHII.11.c, VUS.1.a, VUS.1.c, VUS.1.d, VUS.1.f, VUS.1.g, VUS.1.h, VUS.11.a, VUS11.b, VUS11.c, VUS11.d

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“TSAAKU NUNNUWEE—WE MADE A GOOD LANDING:”
THE COMANCHE CODE TALKERS AND D-DAY

Glossary

**Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF)**
The Allied forces in northwestern Europe who were under the command of U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower during World War II. Twelve nations supplied troops and equipment for the AEF: United States, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom.

**Allied Powers**
Countries that fought against the Axis Powers in World War II; most notably the United States, United Kingdom, and Russia.

**Amphibious Invasion**
A military operation that utilizes naval support for air and land forces targeting a hostile landing beach.

**Atlantic Wall**
An extensive network of coastal defenses constructed by the Germans during World War II, between 1942 and 1944, along the coast of mainland Europe and Scandinavia.

**Axis Powers**
The alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II.

**Codebreaking**
Deciphering coded messages, also known as cryptanalysis. Militaries throughout history have used coded messages to prevent the enemy from learning of battle plans and important messages.

**Comanche Code Talkers**
A group of bilingual Comanche men handpicked to code, transmit, and decode messages in the European Theater of Operations using the Comanche language.

**Churchill, Sir Winston**
Prime Minister of Britain during World War II

**De Gaulle, Charles**
French General and leader of Free France, headquartered in London, England during German occupation of France from 1940-1944

**D-Day**
D-Day is military code for the day that the invasion is going to take place. D-Day literally means “Day-Day.” So June 6, 1944 was D-Day, the date of invasion; whereas, June 7, 1944 was D+1 or invasion day plus one day. The invasion of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 is known as D-Day because it is the largest amphibious invasion ever to occur in history.
Eisenhower, Dwight D.
United States General and Supreme Commander of all troops in the European Theater (Allied Expeditionary Force) during World War II, overseeing the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy. He later became the 34th President of the United States.

Enigma Machine
An electric motor cipher machine used by militaries and diplomats, especially Nazi Germany, during the first half of the 21st century. Breaking the code for the enigma machine was a major feat of the Allies and aided in defeating the Axis Powers.

Gold Beach
Codename for the D-Day invasion beach assaulted by the British 50th Division

Hedgehog
Obstacles hidden by high tides and composed of three metal beams welded together designed to scuttle landing craft. Originally used on land as an anti-tank obstacle.

Higgins, Andrew
New Orleans based boat designer and builder who developed the LCVP with its distinctive front ramp. More than 12,500 were built and used in every major Allied amphibious assault in WWII. Eisenhower referred to Higgins as the “man who won the war for us.”

Hitler, Adolf
Nazi Party leader and German dictator from 1933 to 1945. He established the Third Reich, re-militarized Germany, enacted anti-Semitic laws and policies, and started WWII in Europe by invading Poland in September 1939.

Home Front
A term used to describe the United States mainland during WWII.

Iwo Jima
A major battle in the Pacific Theater of Operations that the U.S. Marine Corps landed and captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese. The Navajo Code Talkers played a major role in the success of this battle.

LCVP
Landing craft, vehicle and personnel – also known as Higgins Boat, could hold up to 36 soldiers, or a tank and 12 soldiers

Nazi
Abbreviation for Hitler’s National Socialist German Workers Party

Navajo Code Talkers
A group of bilingual Navajo men recruited by the U.S. Marine Corps to code, transmit, and decode messages in the Pacific Theater of Operations.
Normandy
Region of Northwest France that was the location of the D-Day invasions for Operation Overlord

Omaha Beach
Codename for the D-Day invasion beach assaulted by the U.S. 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions. Known as “Bloody Omaha” due to 2,400 out of 2,499 of American deaths on June 6, 1944

Operation Fortitude
The deceptive operation conceived to conceal Operation Overlord. General Patton oversaw this operation, focused mainly in Calais (the shortest distance across the English Channel between England and France), which was intended to divert the Germans from sending reinforcements to Normandy following June 6, 1944.

Operation Neptune
The code name for the naval operations that supported Operation Overlord

Operation Overlord
Code name for the operation that began with the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944 and ended on August 25, 1944 with the liberation of Paris, France

Rommel, Erwin
German General who fought on both the Eastern and Western European Fronts at the beginning of the war, commanded units in Africa, and led the defense of Normandy following the D-Day invasion.

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano
President of the United States from 1932 to April 1945, just a month before the end of WWII.

SHAEF
Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force - name given to the headquarters where Eisenhower and his team of men planned the invasion. The headquarters were located in the Southwick House, a manor house north of Portsmouth, England.

Sword Beach
Codename for the D-Day invasion beach assaulted by the British 3rd Division, the 27th Armored Brigade and the 1st Special Service Brigade Commando

Tehran Conference
Strategy meeting between the “Big Three” Allied Leaders (Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin) in Tehran, Iran November 28 to December 1, 1943 to discuss opening a second front in Europe.

Theater of Operations
A geographical area in which military operations take place during a war. In World War II, the two major theaters of operations were Europe and the Pacific.

Utah Beach
Codename for the D-Day invasion beach assaulted by the U.S. 4th Infantry Division
Native Americans Languages:
A Winning Code for the United States

The U.S. military used Native American languages, such as the Navajo and Comanche, to create their code for World War II. Neither language had words for weapons and technology that were used in WWII, so they used words that described either the look or purpose instead. For example, the Comanche used the word “wakaree” which is translated to turtle for tanks.

Through the Comanche Museum’s interactive dictionary, explore the Comanche language by learning the English translation and hearing it pronounced. While you do this, think about words that would work with a code for other military weapons and technology, such as a machine gun, B-52 Bomber, etc.

THE ENIGMA MACHINE: THE CODE OF THE ENEMY

The Enigma machine was developed by a German inventor after World War I and used by the Nazi German government to encrypt, or code, data to prevent secret information from being intercepted by spies.

The machine consists of electrical and mechanical parts that support the interior rotors, that contain 27 spaces for each letter of the alphabet. These rotors are what encrypt the messages. One rotor encryption is simple—the pin on the rotor indicates the one letter (R) that would be wired to the contact for a different letter (X). However, the Enigma machine’s security came from using at least three different rotors at once and changing the movement and code regularly.

To learn more about the Enigma machine, visit http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/enigma for videos, pictures, and other facts.
In preparation for the D-Day invasion of Normandy in June 1944, the Allies knew that deception would be one of the keys to success. With staging a fake invasion for Calais, the Allies created dummy vehicles to create the illusion of a real invasion scheduled for mid-July 1944. These dummy vehicles, which included tanks, landing craft, and jeeps, were typically either inflatables or wooden. The significance of the dummy tanks was two-fold: to make the Germans believe they had more tanks and to mislead them about the location of the upcoming invasion.

Follow the instructions below to create your own dummy tank out of paper. For the original instructions and video and picture accompaniment, visit http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Tank.

Supplies Needed:
- 1 Sheet of 8.5x11 Paper
- 1 Pair of Scissors
- Small Rolled Up Piece of Scrap Paper
- Markers

Instructions:
1. Fold the sheet of paper in half.
2. Cut or rip the paper in half along the fold.
3. Keep one half and throw away the other half (or save it to make another tank).
4. Fold the paper in half again to make a long rectangle.
5. Fold the ends of the paper into an X. Take one corner and fold diagonally to create a point. Unfold and repeat, folding the other side diagonally. When you unfold you will see the creases form an X. Repeat on the other end of the paper.
6. Create pointed ends. Push in the sides of the paper where you made the folds (the X at each end). The paper will fold in on itself and create a point. Do this on both ends of the paper. Both ends now have an arrow shape.
7. Make the wheels. Fold both of the long sides of the paper once inwards towards the center. Take the inside edge and fold once again outwards, creating a flap.
8. Make the first part of the turret. Choose one end of the paper. Fold the ends of the arrow up and towards the middle. Leave a small gap in the center.
9. Turn the paper over. The smooth side (without the folds visible) should be facing up. Fold each end up. The end with the larger point (which looks like an arrow) should rest on top of the smaller end.
10. Tuck the flap below the larger point into the smaller point. The larger (arrow) end will rest in the gap created when you folded the first part of the turret.
11. Tuck the points of the first part of the turret underneath the sides of the arrow. Fold the points of the arrow under the turret points, locking them together to form the full turret.
12. Pull out the wheels by using your finger to gently unfold the flaps that are the wheels. Do this on both sides.
13. Add the gun by inserting the small rolled up piece of scrap paper into the narrowest end of the top.
NAVAJO CODE BREAKING

During World War II, Native American codes were used to transmit coded messages that the Japanese and Germans could not intercept. Today, you get the opportunity to try your hand at creating and translating coded messages.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take the fill-in-the-blank worksheet and add the Navajo words in the blanks using the dictionary below.
   
   To take it to the next level, create your own message with fill-in-the-blanks to place codewords!

2. Once you have finished, switch worksheets with a partner and see who can translate the code the fastest!
# NAVAJO CODE WORD DICTIONARY

## AIRPLANES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Word</th>
<th>Navajo Code Word</th>
<th>Literal Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airplanes</td>
<td>Wo-tah-de-ne-ih</td>
<td>Air Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dive Bombers</td>
<td>Gini</td>
<td>Chicken Hawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torpedo Plane</td>
<td>Tas-chizzie</td>
<td>Swallow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Plane</td>
<td>Ne-as-jah</td>
<td>Owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighter Plane</td>
<td>Da-he-tih-hi</td>
<td>Hummingbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bomber</td>
<td>Jay-sho</td>
<td>Buzzard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol Plane</td>
<td>Ga-gih</td>
<td>Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Plane</td>
<td>Astah</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Word</th>
<th>Navajo Code Word</th>
<th>Literal Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ships</td>
<td>Toh-dineh-ih</td>
<td>Water Clan Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battleship</td>
<td>Lo-tso</td>
<td>Whale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft Carrier</td>
<td>Tsidi-ney-yeh</td>
<td>Bird Carrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submarine</td>
<td>Besh-lo</td>
<td>Iron Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Sweeper</td>
<td>Cha</td>
<td>Beaver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyer</td>
<td>Ca-lo</td>
<td>Shark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Dineh-nay-eh</td>
<td>Man Carrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruiser</td>
<td>Lo-tso-yazzie</td>
<td>Small Whale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito Boat</td>
<td>Tse-e</td>
<td>Mosquito</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### MONTHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Word</th>
<th>Navajo Code Word</th>
<th>Literal Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Yas-nil-tes</td>
<td>Crusted Snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Astah-be-yaz</td>
<td>Small Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Woz-cheind</td>
<td>Squeaky Voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Tsha-chill</td>
<td>Small Plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Tah-tso</td>
<td>Big Plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Be-ne-eh-eh-jah-tso</td>
<td>Big Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Be-ne-ta-tasosie</td>
<td>Small Harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Be-neen-ta-tso</td>
<td>Big Harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Ghan-jih</td>
<td>Half</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Nil-chi-tosie</td>
<td>Small Wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Nil-chi-tso</td>
<td>Big Wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Kesh-mesh</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Word</th>
<th>Navajo Code Word</th>
<th>Literal Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Zhin-ni</td>
<td>Blackies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Beh-hga</td>
<td>With Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>Ne-he-mah</td>
<td>Our Mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Cha-yes-desi</td>
<td>Rolled Hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>Toh-ta</td>
<td>Bounded by Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Ceh-yehs-besi</td>
<td>Braided Hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Da-gha-hi</td>
<td>Beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Besh-be-cha-he</td>
<td>Iron Hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Tkin-ke-yah</td>
<td>Ice Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Ah-le-gai</td>
<td>White Clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Doh-ha-chi-yali-tchi</td>
<td>Stutter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Beh-na-ali-tsoisi</td>
<td>Slant Eyed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Keyah-da-na-ilhe</td>
<td>Floating Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Sila-goche-ih</td>
<td>Red Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>Sha-de-ah-ne-mah</td>
<td>South Our Mother</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good Morning, Mr. President,

I am writing you from the frontlines in the Pacific. I am under General Nimitz, and he has ordered me to give you a detailed report on the task ahead of us. It has been a long, hard fight against the Japanese. We are about to invade the Asian nation of _______________________. It is a key location because it has airbases we can use to prepare for an invasion of Japan.

We plan to attack on the 3rd of _______________________. We expect the Japanese to use the Axis countries of ________________________ and ________________________ for help. The country of ________________________ is providing them with 3,000 ________________________. The country of ________________________ is providing them with 6,000 ________________________. Because we know the Japanese are ruthless, we expect them to use ________________________ and ________________________.

My men and I have spent many hours planning this invasion. We will be using 4,000 ________________________ before we send in 7,000 ________________________. This will give our ________________________ enough time to attack without fear. We also plan to have the following Allied countries, ________________________ and ________________________, work together with us to take ________________________. We know that the Japanese will have ________________________ ready, so it is crucial that our ________________________ does not attack too early or too late.

If all goes according to plan, we should be ready to invade Japan no later than the month of ________________________.