

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS

Additional Resources

Books for Further Reading

The following titles provide an overview of American Indian Code Talkers, Native participation in the U.S. military, and the life experienced by many Native soldiers in federally sponsored Indian boarding schools.

Books for Adults

American Indians in World War I

Britten, Thomas A. *American Indians in World War I: At War and at Home*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997.

American Indians in World War II

Bernstein, Alison R. *American Indians and World War II: Toward a New Era in Indian Affairs*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991.

Franco, Jere Bishop. *Crossing the Pond: The Native American Effort in World War II*. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1999.

Townsend, Kenneth William. *World War II and the American Indian*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000.

American Indian Code Talkers

Daily, Robert. *The Code Talkers: American Indians in World War II*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1995.

Navajo Code Talkers

Aaseng, Nathan. *Navajo Code Talkers*. New York: Walker & Company, 1992.

Bixler, Margaret T. *Winds of Freedom: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II*. Darien, CT: Two Bytes, 1992.

Durrett, Deanne. *Unsung Heroes of World War II: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers*. New York: Facts on File, 1998.

Jones, Catherine. *Navajo Code Talkers: Native American Heroes*. Greensboro, NC: Tudor, 1997.

Kawano, Kenji. *Warriors: Navajo Code Talkers*. With a foreword by Carl Nelson Gorman and an introduction by Benis M. Frank. Flagstaff, AZ: Northland, 1990.

McClain, Sally. *Navajo Weapon*. Tucson, AZ: Rio Nuevo, 2002.

Nez, Chester. *Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII*. With Judith Schiess Avila. New York: Berkley, 2011.

Paul, Doris Atkinson. *The Navajo Code Talkers*. Philadelphia: Dorrance, 1973.

Comanche Code Talkers

Meadows, William C. *The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002.

Codes and Ciphers

Singh, Simon. *The Code Book: The Evolution of Secrecy from Mary, Queen of Scots to Quantum Cryptography*. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

Smith, Laurence D. *Cryptography: The Science of Secret Writing*. Dover, DE: Dover Publications, 1955.

Indian Boarding Schools

Adams, David Wallace. *Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875–1928*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1997.

Archuleta, Margaret, Brenda J. Child, and K. Tsianina Lomawaima, eds. *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Experiences*. Phoenix, AZ: Heard Museum, 2000.

Child, Brenda. *Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900–1940*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Cobb, Amanda J. *Listening to Our Grandmothers' Stories: The Bloomfield Academy for Chickasaw Females, 1852–1949*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Gilbert, Matthew Sakiestewa. *Education beyond the Mesas: Hopi Students at Sherman Institute, 1902–1929*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010.

Johnson, Basil. *Indian School Days*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995.

Lomawaima, K. Tsianina. *They Called It Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995.

Trafzer, Clifford E., and Jean A. Keller, eds. *Boarding School Blues: Revisiting American Indian Educational Experiences*. With an introduction by Lorene Sisquoc. Lincoln, NE: Bison Books, 2006.

Trafzer, Clifford, E., Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert, and Lorene Sisquoc, eds. *The Indian School on Magnolia Avenue: Voices and Images from Sherman Institute*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2012.

Books for Young People

American Indian Code Talkers

Bruchac, Joseph. *Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II*. New York: Dial Books, 2005. [ages 12 and up]

Eboch, M. M. *Native American Code Talkers*. Minneapolis: ABDO, 2015. [ages 11 and up]

Hunter, Sara Hoagland. *The Unbreakable Code*. Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Publishing, 1996. [ages 4–8]

Starr, Arigon, ed. *Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers*. Minneapolis: Native Realities, 2016. [ages 11 and up]

Codes and Ciphers

Adams, Simon. *Codebreakers: Secret Worlds*. New York: DK, 2002. [ages 9–12]

Huckle, Helen. *The Secret Code Book*. New York: Dial Books, 1995. [ages 9–12]

Janezko, Paul, ed. *Top Secret: A Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2004. [ages 9–12]

Price Hossell, Karen. *Ciphers and Codes*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2003. [ages 4–8]

Singh, Simon. *The Code Book: How to Make it, Break it, Hack it, Crack it*. New York: Bantam Doubleday, 2002. [young adult]

Indian Boarding Schools

Archuleta, Margaret L., Brenda J. Child, and K. Tsianina Lomawaima, eds. *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Experiences, 1879–2000*. Phoenix, AZ: Heard Museum, 2000. [young adult]

Littlefield, Holly. *Children of the Indian Boarding Schools*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2001. [ages 8 and up]

Loyie, Larry, and Constance Brissenden. *As Long as the Rivers Flow: A Last Summer before Residential School*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2003. [ages 8 and up]

Sterling, Shirley. *My Name Is Seepeetza*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 1998. [ages 12 and up]

Tohe, Laura. *No Parole Today*. Albuquerque, NM: West End Press, 1999. [ages 12 and up]

Films

American Indian Code Talkers have been featured in a number of documentary film presentations.

In Search of History: The Navajo Code Talkers. 50 minutes. Lincoln, NE: History Channel and Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium, 2006.

Description: History Channel documentary on the Navajo Code Talkers. Includes explanation and history of code and interviews with talkers.

The Last Comanche Code Talker: Recollections of Charles Chibitty. 42 minutes. Momford, OK: Hidden Path Productions, 2000.

Navajo Code Talkers: The Epic Story. 55 minutes. North Hollywood, CA: Tully Entertainment, 1994.

Description: Documentary of the Navajo Code Talkers and Navajo history during World War II.

Navajo Code Talkers of World War II: A Journey of Remembrance. 1 hour, 9 minutes. Worcester, PA: Vision Video, 2018.

Description: This movie provides viewers with personal insights from a group of Native American war heroes regarding their service on behalf of the United States and the Navajo Nation.

Resources Online

Code Talkers

U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. Teaching with Documents: Memorandum Regarding the Enlistment of Navajo Indians. <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/code-talkers>.

Description: This site gives more detail on the U.S. Marine Corps Navajo Code Talker program, highlighting Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel's March 26, 1942, memo recommending the recruitment of Navajo men for the project.

Ellen Berkovitch, KSFR Santa Fe Public Radio. "Zonnie Gorman on Celebrating the Navajo Code Talkers." Published August 14, 2007. <https://www.ksfr.org/post/zonnie-gorman-celebrating-navajo-code-talkers>.

American Indian Languages

There are many websites now devoted to American Indian languages. The links below provide a sampling of sites related to Code Talking languages. The sites vary in their offerings. Some sites include audio samples and lesson plans, while others are more general. Exploration is encouraged.

Cherokee Language Programs. <https://language.cherokee.org/>.

Choctaw Language Program. <http://www.choctaw.org/culture/tlp.html>.

Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee. <http://www.comanchelanguage.org>.

Information about Hopi language and culture. <http://www.hopi-nsn.gov/>.

Information about Navajo language. <https://ais.arizona.edu/thesis/revitalization-navajo-language-and-culture>.

Information about Navajo history. <http://www.navajo-nsn.gov/history.html>.

Bibliography (sources used in the development of this website)

Adams, David Wallace. *Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875–1928*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1997.

Archuleta, Margaret, Brenda J. Child, and K. Tsianina Lomawaima, eds. *Away from Home: American Indian Boarding School Experiences*. Phoenix, AZ: Heard Museum, 2000.

Bierhorst, John, ed. *Four Masterworks of American Indian Literature*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1974.

Charles Joyce Chibitty: 1921–2005. YL-37 Flies Again. YL-37 Group Foundation Inc. <http://marine73110.tripod.com/id20.html>.

Circle of Light Navajo Educational Project. *Our Fathers, Our Grandfathers, Our Heroes: The Navajo Code Talkers of World War II*. Gallup, NM: Circle of Light Navajo Educational Project, 2004.

Deloria, Vine, Jr., and Clifford M. Lytle. *American Indians, American Justice*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1983.

Kawano, Kenji. *Warriors: Navajo Code Talkers*. With a foreword by Carl Nelson Gorman and an introduction by Benis M. Frank. Flagstaff, AZ: Northland, 1990.

Meadows, William C. “An Honor Long Overdue: The 2013 Congressional Gold and Silver Medal Ceremonies in Honor of Native American Code Talkers.” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 40, no. 2 (2016): 91–92.

Meadows, William C. “Honoring Native American Code Talkers: The Road to the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No.110-420).” *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, 35, no. 3 (2011): 9.’

Meadows, William C. “Native American Code Talkers of World War I.” The United States World War One Centennial Commission website. Accessed July 9, 2019. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/american-indians-in-ww1-code-talkers.html>.

Meadows, William C. “North American Indian Code Talkers: Current Developments and Research.” Unpublished article.

Meadows, William C. *The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002.

Meadows, William C. “‘They Had a Chance to Talk to One Another . . .’: The Role of Incidence in Native American Code Talking.” *Ethnohistory* 56, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 269.

McLain, Sally. *The Navajo Weapon: The Navajo Code Talkers*. Tucson, AZ: Rio Nuevo, 1981.

McMaster, Gerald, and Clifford E. Trafzer, eds. *Native Universe: Voices of Indian America*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution in association with National Geographic, 2004.

National Museum of the American Indian. *American Indian Code Talkers*. Washington, DC: National Museum of the American Indian, 2004. Taped interviews.

Norell, Brenda. Circle of Light: Remembering Carl Gorman. <http://www.indiancountry.com>.

Prucha, Francis Paul. *The Great Father: The United States Government and the American Indians*. 2 vols. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984.

Williams, Rudi. DoD Honors Last Comanche World War II “Code Talker.” American Forces Press Service, 1999. <https://archive.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=42903>.

Last WWII Comanche Code Talker Visits Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery. American Forces Press Service, 2002. <https://archive.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=42523>.

Witmer, Linda F. *The Indian Industrial School: Carlisle Pennsylvania, 1879–1918*. Carlisle, PA: Cumberland County Historical Society, 2002.

Use of the Term “Code Talker”

The U.S. Marine Corps appears to have originated the term “code talker.” During World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps *Manual of Military Occupational Specialties* defined “code talker” as “one who transmits and receives messages in a restricted language by radio and wire. Sends and receives messages by means of semaphores and other visual signal devices. May perform field linemen, switchboard operator, or other communications duties.”

As early as 1919, newspapers had referenced Indians’ work using their languages during military service. Reports at the end of World War I identified Sioux and Choctaw Indians by tribe and described what they had done (used their languages as “code” over the radio).

Early in World War II (as early as December 1940—a full year before the attack on Pearl Harbor), there were more reports of Indians being trained to use their languages over the radio. In February 1941, four articles appeared in at least three different newspapers about Indians being trained for communications work. In 1943, one *New York Times* article referenced “Indian communications men” on Guadalcanal. On September 18, 1945, two weeks after the surrender of Japan, an article appeared in the *Washington Post* calling Navajo men who used their language in the Marine Corps “Navajo Talkers.” The following day the *New York Times* ran a different article that called these men “code talkers.”

Many publications since that time have used the term “code talker” to refer to Indian men who used their Native languages during their service in the U.S. military. William Meadows, author of *The Comanche Code Talkers of World War II*, uses the term “Type One” code talker to describe those Native men who used a coded version of their language to relay military messages. “Type Two” code talker refers to soldiers who used their Native languages in a straightforward manner to transmit military messages. Although the U.S. military and the national press did not usually capitalize this term, we capitalize “Code Talker” throughout Native Words, Native Warriors as a mark of respect for those who served the United States in this capacity.