

Navajo Code Talkers *Shrink-A-Text*

Name: _____

Directions: Read each chunk of text. Determine what the main idea of the text is. Shrink everything from the chunk into one single sentence.

During World War II, the Allied forces were having a lot of trouble getting secret messages overseas. Many times messages were sent through code. The Axis Powers were breaking the codes that had been used, and the United States knew that they needed to invent a code that was unbreakable, so that troops in the Pacific would remain safe.

The idea for the new code came from Philip Johnston. He was a veteran from the first World War and had lived on the land that belonged to the Navajo Nation. He had read an article that talked about how the Army had previously used Native Americans as signalmen in their training camps. A signalman's job is to send and receive messages. In 1942 the United States Marines enlisted 29 Navajo men to help create the new code. These men did not have to work too hard to create an unbreakable code: they were able to use their own native language.

The Navajo Code Talkers helped communicate through all missions in the Pacific Ocean from 1942 until 1945. One of the most important missions the Code Talkers worked on was the assault on Iwo Jima in Japan. The Code Talkers were able to transmit messages from the mainland of the United States to soldiers stationed in Japan. The Japanese military was unable to crack the code. The Navajo Code Talkers were responsible for making sure that strategies that were created in Washington were communicated safely to soldiers in Japan without the coded messages being breached.

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Name: Answer Key

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Student answers will vary. This activity can be done in ability pairings to increase vocabulary and fluency.

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