

Ms. Horwitz's Third Grade class learned about why The WWII Navajo Code Talkers are heroes.

• We began by discussing what makes someone a hero. Some examples given by students were:

"Someone who sacrifices something of their own for someone else."

"Someone who changes the world or makes a difference."

"Someone who teaches us something."

"Someone who overcomes problems, has persistence, or goes on a quest."

"Someone who helps or saves others, or fights for others."

- Students listened to the Read-Aloud of <u>The Unbreakable Code</u> by Sara Hoagland Hunter. Students learn that Navajo code talkers were US Marines who created and used a code to keep military secrets during World War II. The code talkers played a key role in the United States' victory over Japan. Their code was never broken.
- Students discussed and responded to a Google Classroom post:

Do you believe that the Navajo Code Talkers were heroes? Why or why not? Use evidence to support your response. Examples of Responses included:

 "Yes, I think they were heroes because it said in the text that the Navajo let the Native Americans use the language that the Navajo used. It also says in the text that the Navajo would have saved many countless lives because of the language."

- "I think that the Navajo Code Talkers were heroes because they helped the U.S Military win World War II. I know this because if they didn't have the Code Talkers then the Japanese would have broken their secret code".
- "I think yes because if someone didn't think about using the Navajo's code, the Japanese could have unlocked any code by now and America would be ruled by the Japanese. If the code talkers didn't use the Navajo code in World War II, we all wouldn't be living here right now. The code talkers could easily figure out and speak the Navajo code while others couldn't, so they are really heroes."
- "Students then read <u>Code Talkers</u> on Raz-Kids and took the Reading Comprehension Quiz.
 - https://www.raz-plus.com/books/leveledbooks/book/?id=2242&lang=English
- Students watched/visited the following websites to find out more about the Navajo Code Talkers.

http://navajocodetalkers.org/

http://www.timeforkids.com/photos-video/video/code-honor-305711

http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=275

• Students completed commemorative plaques in honor of the Navajo Code Talkers, and used the Navajo Code to translate their own names.



