

# Navajo Indians of the Southwest



Americans built a fort, named Fort Defiance in Navajo territory in September 1851. The Americans seized the valuable grazing land around the fort. In 1860,



when the Navajo's livestock strayed onto pastures, U.S. soldiers slaughtered a number of Navajo horses. The Navajos raided army herds in order to replenish their losses. The Navajo eventually led two attacks against the fort, one in 1856 and one in 1860. Nearly 1,000 Navajo warriors attacked the Fort in the 1860 raid, but Maneulito (below right) and Barboncito



(right) did not have enough weapons to take the fort. Navajo continued their hit and run attacks. A militia unit, the Second New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, was formed to fight the Navajos and Apaches.

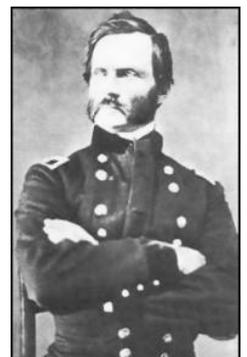
In January 1861, Maneulito and other leaders met with Colonel Canby to sign a new peace treaty. The Navajo were anxious to get back to their crops and livestock and signed the treaty.



A second fort, called Fort Fauntleroy, was built in 1860. (Later it was renamed Fort Wingate.) Manuel Chaves became the commander of the fort. The Navajo gathered at the fort for rations and friendly horse races. There had been heavy betting. Allegations of cheating in a horse race led to a fight between Chaves's men and visiting Navajos. Chaves ordered his men to fire at the Navajo. In all, the troops killed twelve Navajo men, women, and children and wounded around forty more.

In 1862, Fort Wingate was moved. The Civil War was in full swing. Navajo raids increased. Citizens in the area complained that nearly 30,000 sheep were stolen in 1862.

Major General James H. Carleton (right) was assigned to the New Mexico Territory in the fall of 1862. As raids continued in 1862 and into 1863, Carleton told 18 Navajo chiefs that they must surrender and move to Fort





Sumner at the Bosque Redondo. Kit Carson's (left) troops began rounding up Navajo and Apache.

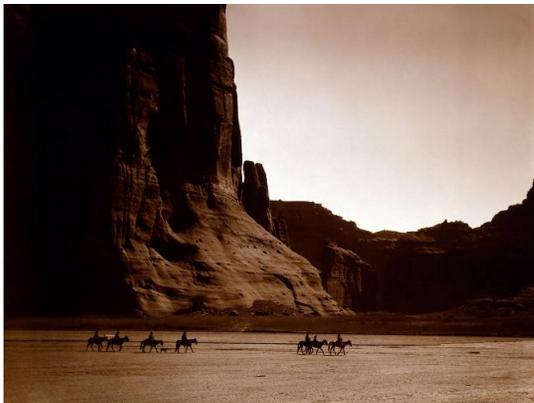
Between September 1863 and January 1864, Carson and his men chased the Navajo, killing and capturing a few. Crops were burned, stock was confiscated,

hogans were burned.



Without food or shelter to sustain them through the winters, and continuously chased by the U.S. Army, groups of Navajo began to surrender.

In early 1864, General Carleton ordered Kit Carson to invade Canyon de Chelly and kill or capture the Navajo there. The Navajo chose to surrender. Before leaving, Carson ordered the complete destruction of everything the Navajo had grown including their peach orchards, more than 5,000 trees.



To the left is a picture of Canyon de Chelly taken in 1904.

Below: Navajo on the Long Walk:



The "Long Walk" started in the beginning of spring in 1864. The march was 300 miles and was extremely difficult. Many people were not prepared for such a long trek. At least 200 people died along the way. Between 8,000 and 9,000 people were settled at Bosque Redondo. It was a 40 square mile area.

On June 18, 1868 the Navajo set off together on the return journey, the "Long Walk" home. This is one of the few instances where the U.S. government permitted a tribe to return to their traditional lands. The Navajo were granted 3.5 million acres, but the size of the reservation has increased to 16 million acres.

**Navajo Code Talkers:** During World War II, about two hundred Navajo were recruited to serve in the U.S.



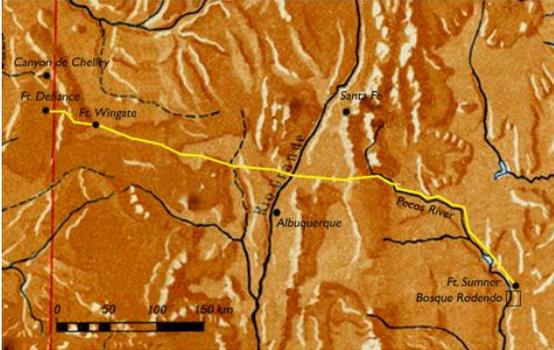
marine corps. Many served as Code Talkers. The Navajo language as was used as a military code. It remains the only oral code not to have been broken by an enemy.



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Fort Defiance:



Barboncito (above)  
Manuelito (below)

Below: Fort Fauntleroy/renamed Fort Wingate



James Carlton



Kit Carson

Canyon de Chelly



The Long Walk:



Navajo Hogan



Navajo Code Talkers:



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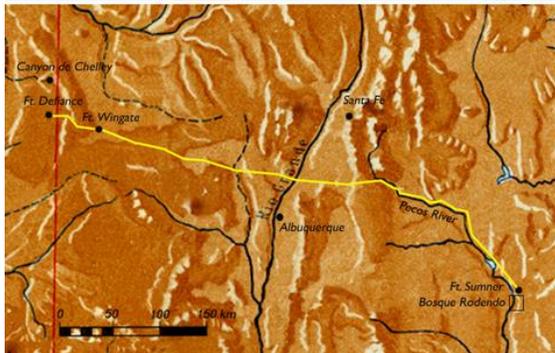
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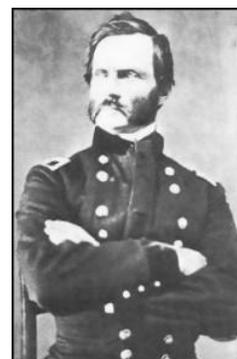
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Major General James H. Carleton (right) was assigned to the New Mexico Territory in the fall of 1862. As raids continued in 1862 and into 1863, Carleton told 18 Navajo chiefs that they must \_\_\_\_\_





and move to Fort Sumner at the Bosque Redondo. Kit Carson's (left) troops began rounding up Navajo and Apache.

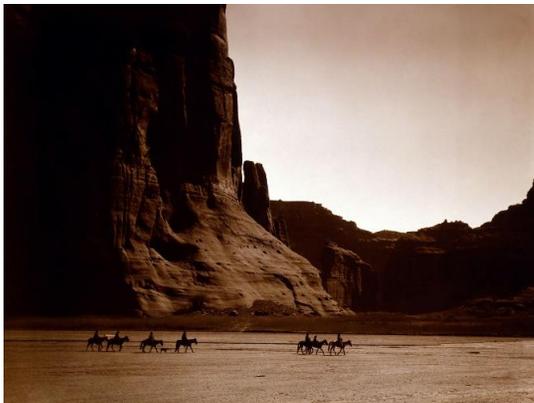
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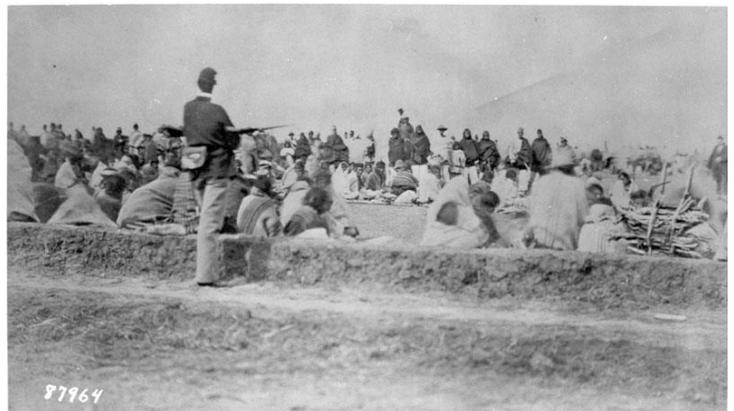
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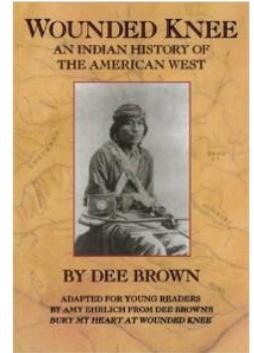


About a year and a half ago, we did a unit on Native Americans. We covered the [Algonquian Indians](#) and [Iroquois of the Northeast](#), the [Cherokee and Seminole Indians of the Southeast \(and Trail of Tears\)](#), but after that we had to move on to another unit. (These links will take you to those notebook pages)

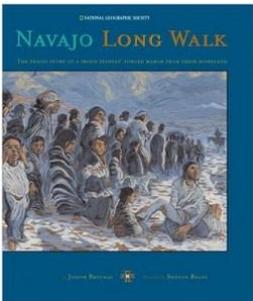
This summer, we will be taking a trip out West and hope to spend time both in Arizona visiting some of the national parks on (and near) Navajo Nation lands. We hope to visit Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, the Petrified Forest as well as Antelope Canyon.

To make the whole experience more meaningful, we're delving into some history of the West in the 1860s-1890s.

As our spine, we are using [Wounded Knee : an Indian history of the American West](#) (*affiliate link*) by Dee Brown ; adapted for young readers by Amy Ehrlich. I read Dee Brown's classic [Bury my heart at Wounded Knee](#) (*affiliate link*) years ago, but chose to use the adapted version with my kids (they are currently 8, 10, 12).



We read the first chapter, *The Long Walk of the Navajo*, for this part of our unit. The kids were moved (and saddened).



We also read the powerful book by Joseph Bruchac, [Navajo Long Walk: The Tragic Story of a Proud People's Forced March from their Homeland](#). We got more out of this book having read and learned a bit about the Navajo first. I definitely recommend this book. It is recommended for grades 4 to 8, but my 2nd grader was riveted by it too. Again, they were shocked by things like the Navajo children being sold as slaves and the description of the walk itself.

We are also reading a novel about a Navajo girl on the Long Walk. I'm not sure how I feel about it yet, so won't recommend it til we're closer to the end. We also got a couple of books on the Navajo from the library and recommend that you see what your library has on hand because my kids enjoyed pouring through the pictures and maps.

## Photo Credits:

Manuelito - <https://www.loc.gov/item/97519186/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Barboncito.jpg>

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kit\\_Carson,\\_about\\_1860.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kit_Carson,_about_1860.jpg)

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/code-talkers/images/letter-02.jpg>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/93505931/>

<http://www.museumsyndicate.com/tag.php?id=62>

Cpl. Henry Bake, Jr., and Pfc. George H. Kirk, Navajos serving in December 1943 with a Marine Corps signal unit, operate a portable radio set in a clearing that they have hacked in the dense jungle close behind the front lines. (NARA, 127-N-69889B)

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Feel free to make as many copies as you need for your kids or the students in your classroom.  
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You might be interested in some of our other history packets:

## [Civics and Government Packet:](#)



[American Revolution Packet](#) (A Study of the causes of and events leading to the American Revolution such as the French & Indian War, Sugar & Molasses Acts, Stamp Act, Boston Massacre, Townshend Acts, Boston Tea Party, Lexington & Concord and more)

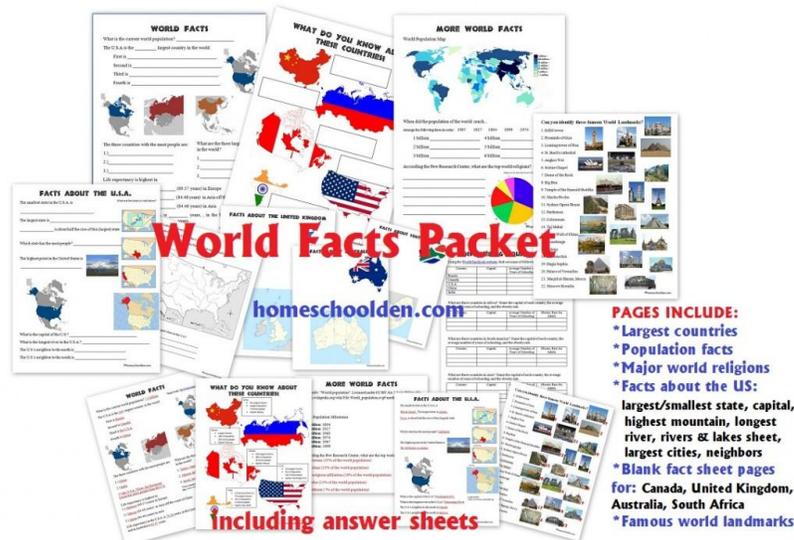
**Highlighting:**

- The French and Indian War
- Albany Plan
- Sugar and Molasses Acts
- Pontiac's Rebellion
- Proclamation of 1763
- Stamp Act
- Sons of Liberty
- Noable Men of Boston
- Townshend Acts
- Tea Act
- Boston Tea Party
- Intolerable Acts
- First Continental Congress
- Battles of Lexington and Concord

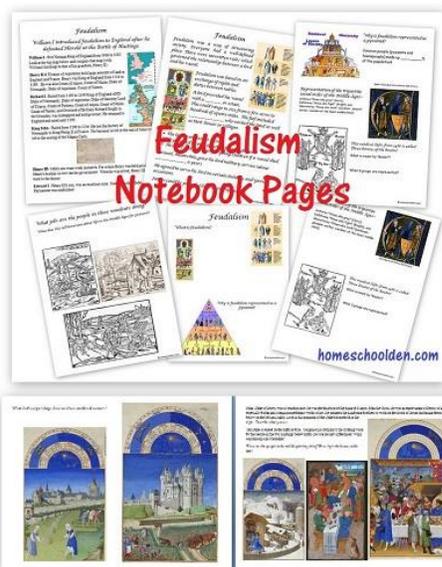
**Made by Liesl at homeschoolden.com**

**World Facts Packet:** Do your kids know the 4 largest countries? Which countries have the most people? The longest river? This packet covers basic world and U.S. facts.

- \*Largest countries
- \*Population facts
- \*Major world religions
- \*Facts about the World: longest river, largest desert, wettest and driest places on Earth, tallest mountain, deepest spot in the ocean, etc.
- \*Facts about the US: largest/smallest state, capital, highest mountain, longest river, rivers & lakes sheet, largest cities, neighbors
- \*Blank fact sheet pages for: Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa
- \*Famous world landmarks



## Feudalism, Medieval Art



## Middle Ages Unit Feudalism Activities



We also have World Religions Packets, packets on Africa, India, Gandhi, the Civil Rights Movement and many others. Many of our materials are free.