


# Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

## Topic 5 Content: Minority Contributions in the Pacific Notes

### Introduction

#### Minority Contributions in the Pacific

Introduction



Just as in the European theatre of war, minority soldiers served with bravery and valor during the Pacific theatre of war. Navajo American Indians used their own military code, which confused the enemy. Hispanic Americans fought with honor even though they were discriminated against at home. In this interactivity, click each panel to investigate the roles Native Americans and Hispanic Americans served in the Pacific theatre of war.

Native Americans

Hispanic Americans

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**Native Americans**

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**Hispanic Americans**

**Native Americans**

A group of Navajo American Indians, known as the Navajo Code Talkers, effectively used their own oral language as a military code. It did not have a written component. The code successfully confused the Japanese, who could not break it even after capturing a Navajo soldier in the Philippines. Navajo Code Talkers served with distinction during many major battles in the Pacific, including Iwo Jima.

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**Hispanic Americans**

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Native Americans

Hispanic Americans

**Hispanic Americans**



Hispanic Americans were recognized for their bravery during World War II. Two units, made up of mostly Hispanic Americans, were captured during the Battle of the Philippines. Along with other prisoners of war, they were forced to participate in the Bataan Death March. Most Hispanic Americans fought in non-segregated units. The exact number of Hispanic Americans who participated is difficult to calculate because the military did not keep counts of this group.

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