

A Synonyms

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Use the synonym (a word that means the same) in parentheses to help you select the correct word. Compare answers with a partner

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1. Traditional Navajo people _____ memorized _____ their history to share with the next generation.
(remembered)
2. In 1864 Kit Carson and the U.S. Army _____ (caught) thousands of Navajo people and made them march 300 miles to New Mexico as prisoners on the Long Walk.
3. Books _____ (tell) how the U.S. Army burned Navajo crops, killed their animals, and destroyed their homes.
4. When the Navajo returned to Arizona, they had to _____ (stay) on a reservation under U.S. government control.
5. The Code Talkers served their country _____ (by way of) the code, but they couldn't vote in Arizona until 1948.
6. The decision to help their country was _____ (difficult) for the Navajo because they were not always accepted as full Americans.

B Prefixes

A **prefix** is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word that changes the word's meaning. Knowing what prefixes mean can help you figure out the meanings of words as you read.

The Prefix Un-

un- = not

In adjectives and adverbs, **un-** is used to show an opposite or negative state:

The Navajo Code remained **unbroken** for many years.
[not broken]

The Prefix De-

de- = remove from

In some verbs or adjectives, **de-** means "to remove from something or to remove something from something":

They had to **decode** the message in order to understand it.
[remove the code from]

Work with a partner to complete this summary of the reading. Circle the correct word.

The Navajo contribution to the United States war effort went almost _____ in American history. The Navajo Code remained _____ to the other 3,200 Navajo soldiers who were not Code Talkers. The code, like the Navajo language, was _____, and it was memorized only by the Code Talkers. Other Navajos could not decode it, because it contained a series of _____ Navajo words. This code remained _____ for more than 20 years after the war, until 1968, when the U.S. government _____ it and made its secret known to the public.