Hundres of years ago, people from Europe explored North America. They thought they had found a new land. They thought nobody else lived in North America. But they were wrong. Many people already lived in North America. We call those native people American Indians. Different groups of American Indians lived in different places. Each group had its own language and its own way of life. Each group was a little different from the other groups. Today, there are still several groups of American Indians called nations. They live in different regions of the United States. Each American Indian nation still has its own ways of life and its own language. Some nations have their own schools, too, where kids learn the language of their nation.
Read the text and then answer the questions.

One American Indian nation is called the Navajo Nation. Most Navajo live in the Southwest. One part of the Navajo reservation is in Arizona and another part is in New Mexico. There are also parts in Colorado and in Utah. Some Navajo live in cities, and some live on the reservation. Some Navajo live in houses called hogans. Hogans are usually round, but they can also be square. The door of a hogan faces east. Navajo believe that a house should face the rising sun. Many Navajo speak their own language. It is a very different language from English. Some Navajo kids go to Navajo schools. In those schools, they learn the same things you are learning, but they learn other things, too. They also learn their own language and they learn Navajo ways of life.

1. According to this text, where do most Navajo live?
   - A the Northwest
   - B the Southwest
   - C Florida
   - D New York City

2. Which is not a subject that kids learn in Navajo schools?
   - A nursing
   - B the Navajo language
   - C math
   - D Navajo ways of life

3. Which word is defined as a Navajo house?
   - A nation
   - B reservation
   - C hogan
   - D Navajo

4. What part of speech is the word Navajo?
   - A an adjective
   - B a proper noun
   - C a pronoun
   - D a verb

5. What does it mean for a door to face a certain direction?
   - A It points in that direction.
   - B It has a face on it.
   - C It is in the front of a structure.
   - D It is in the back of a structure.
The Navajo people call themselves the Diné (dee-NEH). That means “the people” in Navajo. Nobody knows just when the Navajo came to the Southwest. But they have been there for hundreds of years. After they arrived, the Navajo learned several skills. They learned to tend sheep—in fact, they have become expert shepherds. They learned to weave, too. Many Navajo still practice this traditional skill. The Navajo also became skilled at riding. They got involved in rodeos, too. Some of today’s Navajo still take part in rodeo riding, and they are experts at rodeo skills. In 1864, the Navajo were forced to leave their homes and travel to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. The Navajo call that terrible trip The Long Walk. They were kept at Fort Sumner for four years. In 1868, the Navajo who were still alive returned to their homes.

1. What is this text mostly about?
   A. the Southwest
   B. The Long Walk
   C. weaving
   D. the Navajo people

2. What is The Long Walk?
   A. the forced move of the Navajo to Fort Sumner, New Mexico
   B. the coming of the Navajo to the Southwest
   C. the way the Navajo learned to tend sheep
   D. the way the Navajo built their homes

3. What is the Navajo word for the people?
   A. Fort Sumner
   B. Navajo
   C. Diné
   D. Mexico

4. Which two words are synonyms?
   A. expert and skilled
   B. expert and shepherds
   C. rodeo and riding
   D. tend and weave

5. What makes a skill traditional?
   A. It is handed down by ancestors.
   B. It is challenging.
   C. It has to do with sheep.
   D. It is performed at the rodeo.
Have you ever made up a secret code? Codes let people communicate in a special way. The only people who can understand messages in code are people who know that code. During World War II, America needed a special code. Soldiers needed to send messages, but they did not want the enemy to know what those messages were. So America needed a secret code. American soldiers would know the code, but enemy soldiers would not. The Navajo people turned out to be the solution.

The Navajo language is not easy to understand, and not many people speak that language. So 29 Navajo soldiers used their language to make up a special code using Navajo words. When the code was ready, they used it and taught it to other soldiers. People who knew the code could understand messages that were in that code, but people who didn’t know the code would not know what the messages meant. This group of people who used the code had a special name: they were called Code Talkers. Code Talkers were able to send important messages that had to be secret. For example, they could let everyone know when there would be an attack. They could let others know where the enemy was hiding. That was important information, and it helped America during the war. In fact, this code remains the only unbroken code in modern history.

When the war ended, the Code Talkers returned to their homes. They were welcomed home as heroes. But most people did not know about them because the code was so secret that nobody could know about it. It wasn't until the 1960s that anybody knew about the Code Talkers. Today, we know how important they were. We even know some of the code they used. Here is an example: The Navajo word for turtle is ch’ééh digháhii (ch-AY da-GAH-hee). A tank looks a little like a turtle, so when the Code Talkers wanted to send a message about tanks, they said ch’ééh-digháhii. Now you know some of the code, too!

Navajo Code Talkers
Read “Code Talkers” and then answer the questions.

1. Why was Navajo a good choice for a code language?
   A. It has more words than any other language.
   B. It has very few words in it.
   C. It is one of the most popular languages.
   D. It is hard to learn, and not many people speak it.

2. Why does the author include the pronunciation for ch'ééh digháhii?
   A. It is just like English.
   B. It is a difficult word to pronounce.
   C. It is not an important word.
   D. It is a nonsense word.

3. If you made up a code, what would you have to do?
   A. Tell everybody about it.
   B. Tell people about it only if you wanted them to know.
   C. Make a code that everyone could not understand.
   D. Make a code that you would forget easily.

4. How did the Code Talkers likely feel about what they did during the war?
   A. jealous
   B. angry
   C. unsure
   D. proud

5. What is a reasonable purpose for reading this?
   A. to read a personal story
   B. to learn the Navajo language
   C. to learn about the Code Talkers
   D. to learn the story of World War II

6. What is the author’s likely opinion about Code Talkers?
   A. They were very brave.
   B. They were very brave.
   C. They were not important.
   D. They were not very helpful.

7. Why were Code Talkers effective in the war?
   A. Very few people knew the code.
   B. The Code Talkers told everybody they knew what the code was.
   C. The code was very easy to learn.
   D. The Code Talkers did not speak much Navajo.

8. Which description of Code Talkers makes the most sense?
   A. heroes who helped their countries
   B. traitors who gave away secrets
   C. people who were difficult to understand
   D. smart people who could speak to anyone

SCORE

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Total
If you wanted to send a message in code, how would you do it? Make up your own code and write a word or two in that code. Then, explain how the code works.