

Service and Sacrifice

Recognizing many forms of courage during World War II

USII.6.f "identifying the roles and sacrifices of U.S. armed forces, including prisoners of war (POWs), women, and segregated units, as well as other notable heroics including, but not limited to the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named group, and circle words or phrases that tell its role, sacrifice, or challenge.

Many Ways to Serve

- ① During World War II, Americans served the United States in many ways. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen fought overseas. Some were captured and became prisoners of war, called POWs. POWs lost freedom and often faced hunger, harsh work, illness, and uncertainty. Their service continued while they were held. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, or WAAC, brought women into Army jobs such as clerks, mechanics, and radio operators. Women Airforce Service Pilots, called WASPs, were civilian pilots who ferried planes, freeing military pilots for combat missions.
- ② Racial discrimination shaped military life, but segregated units made important contributions. The Tuskegee Airmen were African American pilots and support personnel who trained in Alabama. They flew fighter and bomber-escort missions in Europe and North Africa while challenging unfair treatment at home. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was made up mostly of Japanese American soldiers. Fighting in Europe, its members showed courage despite prejudice, and many were wounded or killed. Their service earned many awards for bravery.
- ③ Navajo Code Talkers were U.S. Marines who used the Navajo language to send military messages in the Pacific. Their code helped forces communicate quickly because Japanese forces could not understand it. On June 6, 1944, nineteen soldiers from Bedford, Virginia, died during the D-Day invasion of Normandy. They were part of a group remembered as the Bedford Boys. Their losses showed that sacrifice reached families and communities at home. Together, these groups reveal that heroism included combat, skilled support, endurance in captivity, and service despite discrimination.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did becoming a POW change a service member's experience during the war?

2 How were the jobs of the WAAC and the WASPs different?

3 How did the Tuskegee Airmen and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team contribute to the war, and what challenge did both groups face?

4 What did the Navajo Code Talkers do, and what happened to the Bedford Boys on D-Day?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence tribute to two groups from the passage. State each group's role and a sacrifice or challenge it faced, then explain what their service shows about heroism.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named group, and circle words or phrases that tell its role, sacrifice, or challenge. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did becoming a POW change a service member's experience during the war?	POWs lost their freedom and often faced hunger, harsh work, illness, and uncertainty while being held.
2	How were the jobs of the WAAC and the WASPs different?	The WAAC placed women in Army jobs such as clerks, mechanics, and radio operators. WASPs were civilian pilots who ferried planes so military pilots could fly combat missions.
3	How did the Tuskegee Airmen and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team contribute to the war, and what challenge did both groups face?	The Tuskegee Airmen flew fighter and bomber-escort missions, and the 442nd fought in Europe. Both groups served while facing racial discrimination or prejudice.
4	What did the Navajo Code Talkers do, and what happened to the Bedford Boys on D-Day?	Navajo Code Talkers sent military messages using a code based on the Navajo language. Nineteen soldiers from Bedford, Virginia, died during the D-Day invasion.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Tuskegee Airmen flew fighter and bomber-escort missions in Europe and North Africa. They faced unfair treatment even as they served their country. POWs continued their service while held by the enemy. They endured lost freedom, hunger, harsh work, illness, and uncertainty, showing that courage can take many forms.

Accept equivalent descriptions that correctly connect each group to its role, sacrifice, or challenge in the passage. For the tribute, look for two groups, an accurate role and sacrifice or challenge for each, and a concluding idea about heroism.