



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools
Transforming lives through education



Friday, May 22
1:00pm

Mankiller 4th – 8th grades

This is the story of an American hero, standing tall amongst the likes of Robert Kennedy, Harriet Tubman, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and overcoming insurmountable obstacles to fight injustice and give a voice to the voiceless.

This is the story of an American legend, Wilma Mankiller, who overcame rampant sexism and personal challenges to emerge as the Cherokee Nation’s first woman Principal Chief in 1985.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Who is Wilma Mankiller?
- How does Wilma Mankiller’s story parallel that of the Cherokee Nation?
- Describe the benefits and hardships of Wilma’s early life.
- How did she use her rehabilitation time?
- How did Mankiller’s leadership style reflect both the needs and the attitudes she observed in the Cherokee culture?
- How did Wilma give a voice to the voiceless?
- Describe how Wilma Mankiller’s life changed over time?

Question Box 2

- What was the nickname given to Wilma by her father? What attributes does this nickname represent? How do you think these attributes help her to succeed against the odds?
- What do you think makes a good leader?
- Do you think Wilma Mankiller should be an American hero and why or why not?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Read: short [biography of Wilma Mankiller](#)
- Answer the following questions based on what you learned from your two sources (episode and short article)
- Name three obstacles that Wilma Mankiller had to overcome in her life.
- Identify sources of strength Wilma Mankiller used to overcome those obstacles.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Watch the [Mankiller | Bell Water Project](#)
- Identify her plan of action

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- Take note of her challenges and rewards
- Identify a need that would improve your school, neighborhood or community
 - Write your own plan of action
 - Prepare a presentation for your school principal or mayor to convince them of the worthiness of your project

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

Do you know the firsts in Women's history? Research the answers to the questions below:

- Who was the first woman to play in an NHL game?
- Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in Chemistry and only woman to win two Nobel Prizes?
- Who was the first woman on the supreme court?
- Who was the first woman to become a self-made millionaire?
- Who was NASA's first African American manager? (Character was depicted in the movie Hidden Figures).
- Who was the first person of Native-American descent to hold a pilot license?
- Who was the first woman of color to be elected to congress in 1964?
- Who was the longest running female tv news anchor in the US and the first Latina to win a Lifetime Achievement Emmy Award?
- Who served with President Bill Clinton as Secretary of Health and Human Services from 1993-2001 as the first Arab American to serve in a cabinet position?

Wilma Mankiller and those of Native American descent struggled to maintain their cultural identity in the dominant American society. She also confronted sexism and stereotypes of what mainstream society "thought" women could achieve.

- In a paragraph response, describe what characteristics made Wilma Mankiller effective in the many roles she assumed Chief, activist, and mother.

Part of Wilma Mankiller's legacy was addressing sexism and inequality in society. Her accomplishments shed light on rights for the Cherokee Nation and women in western society.

- Read the article, <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2020/03/9564194/what-is-gender-wage-gap-equal-pay-day-2020>
- Read the article and share why Equal Pay Day is celebrated. Create a bar chart <https://spark.adobe.com/express-apps/chart/> displaying the pay gap between women and men. Is there a gender pay gap between women and men? Give two reasons why you think there is a gender pay gap.
- List all four myths described in the article for why women aren't paid as much as men. Argue why you agree or disagree with each argument.
- What strategies does the article offer for closing the gender pay gap? Do you agree that they will work? Why or why not? What strategies do you propose to eliminate the gender pay gap?



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