NATIVE AMERICAN HEROES IN UNIFORM

CHICKASAW WARRIORS

Every veteran has a story. Many have overcome challenges currently faced by fellow service members. Chickasaw warriors have built a centuries-old reputation for their prowess in battle. Chickasaws were always prepared for war. This included training for warfare by playing the traditional game of stickball. Itti' kapochcha to'li' or stickball, also known as "little brother of war," has been handed down from generation to generation and was historically played to settle conflicts over land and politics between Native American tribes. Recorded accounts of stickball date back to the early 18th century.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

As a class, watch the video *Stickball Sticks* (3:24 in length, **https://tinyurl.com/ChickasawStickball**). Ask students to answer the following questions as they watch the video:

1. How many generations of stickball stick makers are in Jesse Lindsey's family?
2. What types of conflicts were settled via a game of stickball? What was the reasoning for this?
3. What method does Jesse Lindsey use to create the bend on the end of the stickball stick?
4. What tools are used to make the stick?
5. What makes him feel a connection to his ancestors?