

LEXINGTON + SARATOGA + YORKTOWN  
BARBARY WARS + LAKE ERIE + NEW ORLEANS  
MONTEREY + VERA CRUZ + BULL RUN + SHILOH  
ANTIETAM + CHANCELLORSVILLE + GETTYSBURG  
INDIAN WARS + SANTIAGO + MANILA  
BELLEAU WOOD + MEUSE - ARGONNE + MIDWAY  
GUADALCANAL + ANZIO + BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC  
NORMANDY + ARDENNES - ALSACE + IWO JIMA  
BERLIN AIR LIFT + PUSAN + INCHON + SEOUL  
GULF OF TONKIN + ROLLING THUNDER + DAK TO  
KHE SANH + TET OFFENSIVE + COLD WAR  
GRENADA + PANAMA + GULF WAR I + BOSNIA  
SOMALIA + KOSOVO + TORA BORA + KANDAHAR  
FALLUJAH + SADR CITY + BASRA

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# Veterans Day



November 11, 2010



**Lessons, Activities, and Resources to Support  
the Commemoration of Veterans Day**

**Curriculum and Instruction  
Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills**

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## History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations, including the United States, and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of the Great War or World War I, “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

**Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

**Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

**Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938

by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible." On that same day, the President sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniforms Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to insure three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans' service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

## Veterans Day - Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Q. Which is the correct spelling of Veterans Day?***

- a. "Veterans Day"
- b. "Veteran's Day"
- c. "Veterans' Day"

#### ***Veterans Day*** (choice a.)

Veterans Day does not include an apostrophe but does include an "s" at the end of "veterans" because it is not a day that "belongs" to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans.

### ***Q. On what day of the week will Veterans Day be observed?***

Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. The Veterans Day National Ceremony, like most ceremonies around the nation, is held on Veterans Day itself. However, when Veterans Day falls on a weekday, many communities choose to hold Veterans Day parades or other celebrations on the weekend before or after November 11<sup>th</sup> so that more people can participate.

### ***Q. Who decides if a government office or business closes or stays open on Veterans Day?***

Federal government closings are established by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Generally, when a holiday falls on a non-workday -- Saturday or Sunday --the federal government is closed on Monday (if the holiday falls on Sunday) or Friday (if the holiday falls on Saturday).

State and local governments, including schools, are not required to follow OPM closure policies and may determine for themselves whether to close or remain open. Likewise, non-government businesses are free to make their own decisions to close or remain open for business, regardless of federal, state or local government closings.

### ***Q. Why do some schools close and others remain in session on Veterans Day?***

Because there is no legal requirement that schools close on Veterans Day, individual states or school districts are free to establish their own policies on school closings. Most schools that do not close for Veterans Day schedule assemblies or other activities to honor America's veterans on Veterans Day and throughout the week that includes Veterans Day.

***Q. What is the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?***

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor *ALL* those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank *LIVING* veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

***Q. Why are red poppies worn on Veterans Day, and where can I obtain them?***

The wearing of poppies in honor of America's war dead is traditionally done on Memorial Day, not Veterans Day. The practice of wearing poppies takes its origin from the poem "In Flanders Fields," written in 1915 by John McCrae. For information on how to obtain poppies for use on Memorial Day, contact a veteran's service organization, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), as the VFW distributes poppies annually on Memorial Day. You can find veterans groups in the Veterans Service Organization link on VA's Veterans Day web page. Veterans groups in your area can be found in your local phone book. Look in the yellow pages under "Veterans and Military Organizations" or a similar heading.

***Q. Is Veterans Day celebrated in other countries?***

Yes, a number of countries honor their veterans each year on November 11, although the name and types of commemorations differ somewhat from Veterans Day celebrations in the United States. For example, Canada and Australia observe "Remembrance Day" on November 11, and Great Britain observes "Remembrance Day" on the Sunday nearest to November 11. There are similarities and differences between these countries' Remembrance Day and America's Veterans Day. Canada's observance is actually quite similar to the U.S. celebration, in that the day is intended to honor all who served in Canada's Armed Forces. However, unlike in the U.S., many Canadians wear red poppy flowers on November 11 in honor of their war dead. In Australia, Remembrance Day is very much like our Memorial Day.

In Great Britain, the day is commemorated by church services and parades of ex-service members in Whitehall, a wide ceremonial avenue leading from London's Parliament Square to Trafalgar Square. Wreaths of poppies are left at the Cenotaph, a war memorial in Whitehall, which was built after the First World War. At the Cenotaph and elsewhere in the country, a two-minute silence is observed at 11 a.m., to honor those who lost their lives in wars.

Source: Frequently Asked Veterans Day Questions –  
[http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetday\\_faq.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetday_faq.asp)

## Statistics on Veterans

### As of 2008:

**23.2 million** - The number of military veterans in the United States in 2008.

**1.8 million** - The number of female veterans in 2008.

**2.3 million** - The number of black veterans in 2008. Additionally, 1.1 million veterans were Hispanic; 276,000 were Asian; 160,000 were American Indian or Alaska Native; 27,000 were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; and 18.3 million were non-Hispanic white. (The numbers for blacks, Asians, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, and non-Hispanic whites cover only those reporting a single race.)

**9.2 million** - The number of veterans 65 and older in 2008. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.9 million were younger than 35.

**7.8 million** - Number of Vietnam-era veterans in 2008. Thirty-three percent of all living veterans served during this time (1964-1975). In addition, 5.2 million served during the Gulf War (representing service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present); 2.6 million in World War II (1941-1945); 2.8 million in the Korean War (1950-1953); and 6 million in peacetime.

**50,000** - Number of living veterans in 2008 who served during the Vietnam Era and both Gulf War eras.

Other living veterans in 2008 who served during three wars:

- 92,000 served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam Era.  
Living veterans in 2008 who served during two wars:
  - 740,000 served during both Gulf War eras.
  - 245,000 served during both the Korean War and the Vietnam Era.
  - 182,000 served during both World War II and the Korean War.

**5** - Number of states with 1 million or more veterans in 2008. - These states were California (2.1 million), Florida (1.7 million), Texas (1.7 million), New York (1 million) and Pennsylvania (1 million).

**26%** - Percent of veterans 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree in 2008.

**91%** - Percent of veterans 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher in 2008.  
Source: 2008 American Community Survey

**\$36,779** - Annual median income of veterans, in 2008 inflation-adjusted dollars.

**10.4 million** - Number of veterans 18 to 64 in the labor force in 2008.  
Source: 2008 American Community Survey

**5.5 million** - Number of veterans with any type of disability in 2008.

**15.8 million** - Number of veterans who voted in the 2008 presidential election. Seventy-one percent of veterans cast a ballot, compared with 63 percent of non-veterans.

**14.5%** - Percentage of owners of firms responding to the 2002 Survey of Business Owners who were veterans. Veteran business owners comprised an estimated 3 million of the 20.5 million owners represented by survey respondents.

**68%** - Percentage of veteran owners of respondent firms who were 55 and older. This compares with 31 percent of all owners of respondent firms. Similarly, in 2002, 55 percent of veteran-owned respondent firms with employees reported that their businesses were originally established, purchased or acquired before 1990, compared with 36 percent of all employer respondent firms.

**\$84.4 billion** - Total amount of federal government spending for veterans benefits programs in fiscal year 2008. Of this total, \$40.2 billion went to compensation and pensions, \$37.9 billion for medical programs and the remainder to other programs, such as vocational rehabilitation and education.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: <http://www.census.gov/>

### **Questions for Discussion about Veterans Day**

- Has any member of your family served in the U.S. armed forces? Which branch? How long did they serve? What stories, if any, do they tell about the experience?
- Do you believe that a strong military is more important, less important, or of the same importance today as it was 50 years ago? Explain your answer.
- Do you believe people should be required to serve in the armed forces? Why or why not?
- What qualifications do you believe those who wish to serve in the armed forces should have?
- What, if anything, should disqualify individuals from serving in the armed forces?
- Should women be allowed to participate in combat? Why or why not?
- How could serving in the armed forces make someone more appreciative of their homeland and freedoms?
- Veterans of the past and of the present literally risk--and sometimes sacrifice--their lives to protect our lives and freedoms. What can we do to honor these men and women?

## Women are Veterans Too!

Did you know that there are almost two million women veterans? From the American Revolution to Panama, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, women have served in some way in every conflict. Women may not have been legal participants in the early days, but many did their part to support the cause.

During the American Revolution, although the call to arms was for men, several women donned the uniform of the revolutionary soldier and fought against the British. One of these women was Deborah Samson who, in October of 1778, disguised herself as a young man and presented herself to the American army as a volunteer. She served, undetected for three years under the name of Robert Shirliffe. Even though she was wounded twice her identity was not revealed until she came down with “brain fever” a common ailment among soldiers at that time.

Other women of the Revolution, like Anna Warner, wife of Captain Elijah Bailey, earned the title of “The Heroine of Groton” because of her fearless efforts to aid the wounded during the massacre at Fort Griswold in Connecticut. There is the little known story of Rachel and Grace Martin who disguised themselves as men and assailed a British courier and his guards, stealing important strategic documents which they turned over to the American General Nathaniel Greene.

The War Between the States was also a war between brothers, cousins, friends and neighbors – and some of them were women. Women served as *vivandieres*, (women who provided food, provisions, and liquors to soldiers), sutlers, (peddlers who sold goods to military units in the field), nurses, soldiers and even spies. Susie Baker, born a slave in Georgia, not only helped members of the 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Colored Troops learn to read and write, she also cleaned, loaded and fired a musket when necessary. Historical records verify that over eighty women were either wounded or killed at various battles in the Civil War on both sides, not counting the thousands who served as nurses. One woman, Dr. Mary Walker, a surgeon in the Civil War, was awarded The Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson.

Prior to World War I, many women disguised their identity in order to participate in the armed services; others worked in more traditional support roles. During the war of 1812, a U. S. Marine, served aboard the USS Constitution under the name George Baker. Baker was in fact Lucy Brewster, a farm girl from Massachusetts who is recognized as the first woman Marine. In the Mexican War of 1846, Sarah Borginis enlisted into the 8<sup>th</sup> Calvary with her husband. Borginis not only became the unit's principal cook, she also took an active part in the battle at Fort Brown. As a result of her actions, General Zachary Taylor brevetted (gave her a promotion without an increase in pay) her to colonel, making her the first female colonel of the U.S. Army.

More than 1500 women served in the U.S., overseas and aboard hospital ships during the Spanish American War. They were recruited to serve as civilian nurses under contract with the U.S. Army – for thirty dollars a month. The Army and Navy Nurse Corps were established in 1901 and 1908. These were the first women in the country to be admitted to military rank and status.

During World War II, over 30,000 women served in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, as Yeomanettes in the Coast Guard and in the Signal Corp. At least three Army nurses were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nations' second highest military honor. "They served their country before they could vote."

Just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp (WAAC) was established. Shortly afterward, the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) was organized. WASPS, or Women Airforce Service Pilots, who flew military aircraft to destination bases, did not enjoy the privileges of other veterans until Congress supported their status as veterans in 1977. Women who served in WW II were awarded over 1,600 medals, including 16 Purple Hearts and over 500 Bronze Stars.

From the relatively small number of women who fought in America's early battles to the more than 1.8 million women veterans alive today, it is important to also honor women who have served this country.

Source: American Women in Uniform, Veterans Too!

[www.userpages.aug.com/captbarb/](http://www.userpages.aug.com/captbarb/)

## How to Contact Veterans Service Organizations

Veterans service organizations are groups of veterans that come together to promote and support veterans' issues. Many organizations consist of members that share a common experience, such as those that served in the same military unit or period of war. The following is a list of organizations that serve on the Veterans Day National Committee. Many of these groups have chapters throughout the country with veterans who can share their experiences with younger generations.

Legion of Valor of the USA, Inc: 4706 Calle Reina, Santa Barbara, CA 93110-2018; (805) 692-2244; [www.legionofvalor.com/](http://www.legionofvalor.com/).

The Military Order of the World Wars: 435 North Lee St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 683-4911; [www.militaryorder.net/](http://www.militaryorder.net/).

The Retired Enlisted Association: 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012; 1-800-338-9337; [www.trea.org/](http://www.trea.org/).

Congressional Medal of Honor Society: 40 Patriots Point Rd, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464; (843) 884-8862; [www.cmohs.org/](http://www.cmohs.org/).

Disabled American Veterans: 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Springs, KY 41076; (859) 441-7300; [www.dav.org/](http://www.dav.org/).

Military Officers Association of America: 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 549-2311; [www.moaa.org/](http://www.moaa.org/).

Polish Legion of American Veterans: P.O. Box 42024, Washington, DC 20015; [www.plav.org/](http://www.plav.org/).

Korean War Veterans Association: 8452 Marys Creek Dr. Benbrook, TX 76116-7600; (817) 244-0706; [www.kwva.org/](http://www.kwva.org/).

American G.I. Forum: 2870 N. Speer Blvd., Suite 102, Denver, CO 80211; (303) 458-1700; [www.agifusa.org/](http://www.agifusa.org/).

Jewish War Veterans of the USA: 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009; 202-265-6280; [www.jwv.org/](http://www.jwv.org/).

American Ex-Prisoners of War: 3201 East Pioneer Pky, #40, Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979; [www.axpow.org/](http://www.axpow.org/).

## Fallen Heroes

Listed below are Internet sites specifically designed to remember and honor American service members lost in Afghanistan and Iraq.

### **Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.**

<http://www.bluestarmothers.org/mc/page.do;jsessionid=0257CFB5D2DC745BA37E9B526FBC31CC.mc1?sitePagelD=59966>

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-political, non-profit organization comprised of mothers who now have, or have had, children honorably serving in the military. Visit the website above and then click on "Fallen Warriors" to view a searchable data base of the over 5,700 servicemen and women who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. Brief profiles of each service member and a Guestbook are included.

### ***The Washington Post* – "Faces of the Fallen"**

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/fallen/>

*The Washington Post* "Faces of the Fallen" website includes a searchable data base. Click on "Home State" then "Miami, Florida" to view brief profiles of the 20+ military personnel from Miami killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **The New York Times – "Faces of the Dead"**

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/us/faces-of-the-dead.html>

*The New York Times* "Faces of the Dead" website includes a searchable data base of the servicemen and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **Other newspapers with special sections honoring service members include:**

- Dallas Morning News
- Los Angeles Times
- New York Times
- The Oklahoman
- San Diego Union-Tribune
- Seattle Times
- Washington Post

**Elementary Level  
Lesson Plans  
and  
Activities**

## **Veterans Day Lesson Plan**

**GRADE LEVEL/COURSE:** Social Studies, Elementary

**TITLE:** What is Veterans Day?

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To identify Veterans Day as the day Americans honor the men and women, living and dead, who have served in the United States military.

**SUGGESTED TIME:**

One hour

**MATERIALS/AIDS NEEDED:**

1. Handout, "What is Veterans Day?" (Note: Two handouts at different levels of difficulty are provided.)
2. Handout, "Tomb of the Unknowns"
3. Comprehension questions

**VOCABULARY**

Military	Memorial	Armistice
Veteran	Tomb	

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:**

1. Read the article, "What is Veterans Day?" Have students complete the following comprehension questions or discuss the questions as a class.
  - What is a veteran?
  - Why was Veterans Day first called Armistice Day?
  - What was the original purpose of Armistice Day?
2. For upper grades, also read the article "Tomb of the Unknowns" and study the picture. Discuss the following:
  - a. Where is the tomb?
  - b. Who is buried in the tomb?
  - c. Why is the tomb guarded day and night by the U.S. Army?
  - d. What does the inscription, "A Soldier Known but to God," mean?
  - e. Explain this statement: "The Tomb of the Unknowns represents Americans respect for all veterans."

## **What is Veterans Day?**

A veteran is a person who has served in the United States military. Each year Americans honor these men and women on Veterans Day. Veterans Day is November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Veterans Day was first called Armistice Day. Armistice Day was a time to remember the soldiers and sailors killed in World War I. When the fighting stopped, the leaders signed an armistice. The armistice meant that the war was over.

Americans were very happy to hear about the armistice. They thought that there would never be another war. The President of the United States at that time was Woodrow Wilson. He made November 11th a holiday to remember the end of the war. The holiday was called Armistice Day. The name of the holiday was later changed to Veterans Day. On Veterans Day, there are parades and celebrations in many communities.

## **What is Veterans Day?**

A veteran is a man or woman who has served their country in the military. Each year, on November 11th, Americans honor all veterans on Veterans Day.

Veterans Day was first called Armistice Day. Armistice Day was a time to remember the soldiers and sailors killed in World War I. World War I lasted from 1914 to 1918. The United States fought in the war from 1917 to 1918. When the fighting stopped, the leaders signed an armistice. They signed the armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The armistice meant that the war was over.

Americans were very happy to hear about the armistice. They thought that there would never be another war. The President of the United States at that time was Woodrow Wilson. He made November 11th a holiday to remember the end of the war. The holiday was called Armistice Day. The name of the holiday was later changed in 1938 to Veterans Day.

A memorial was built near Washington, D.C. to honor all of the men that died in World War I. The body of an unknown soldier was brought to the United States from the cemetery in France. His body was buried in a tomb at Arlington National Cemetery. It was called the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. An unknown soldier from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War were also buried in the tomb. On Veterans Day, there are special services at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

## **Tomb of the Unknowns**

“A Soldier Known but to God”

In 1921, an unknown American soldier killed in World War I was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. in Arlington National Cemetery. The Tomb represents Americans respect for all veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the World War I was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor.

The burials of the unknown soldiers all took place on November 11th, at 11 a.m. This was the day and time in 1918 when World War I ended. The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

An unknown soldier from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War were later buried in the tomb. The Tomb is guarded day and night by the United States Army. Visitors to Arlington National Cemetery can see the changing of the guard at the Tomb. On Veterans Day, there are special services at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



Adapted from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

## **Veterans Day Lesson Plans**

**GRADE LEVEL/COURSE:** Social Studies, Elementary

**TITLE:** Veterans in My Family

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To create a visual of students' family members who are or were veterans.
2. To develop an appreciation for people who have served the United States in times of war and times of peace.

**SUGGESTED TIME:**

Two - three class periods

**MATERIALS/AIDS NEEDED:**

- a. K-W-L Chart
- b. White stars cut from construction paper (stars must be large enough to write the name of a veteran, branch of service, and war or conflict in which they served.)
- c. Red and Blue ribbon to staple stars when completed.

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:**

1. Draw a K – W – L Chart on the board or on a large sheet of paper.
2. Ask students what a veteran is. Ask if they know anyone who is a veteran.
3. Record student responses on the KNOW, WANT TO KNOW part of the K-W-L chart.
4. As a homework assignment, have students ask if anyone in their family (grandparents, parents, cousins, siblings, aunts or uncles, or whomever they wish to include) served in any branch of the United States military during peacetime or wartime. Ask them to collect the names of these individuals, the branch of service they (are) were in, their rank, and the war(s) and/or conflict(s) in which they served. Students may also include any commendations received by the veteran. Example: Capt. Sheronda Smith, US Navy, Vietnam War

5. (Note: Lower elementary teachers may prefer to cut out stars and send them home with students along with a description of the project.
6. When students return to the classroom with their list, they are to write the names and other information on the stars.
7. Cut the ribbon into lengths that can be easily displayed in a hallway or on a class wall. Staple the stars to the ribbon about 2 inches apart.
8. Hang the ribbons in the hallway or classroom to create a display of veterans for the school to examine and appreciate.
9. Complete the WHAT WE LEARNED part of the K-W-L chart.

**SOURCE:** The lesson was adapted from a lesson by Clara Southerland at [www.lessonplanspage.com](http://www.lessonplanspage.com).

## **Additional Elementary Activities**

After students have learned about the history of Veterans Day, assign one or more of the following activities:

- Invite veterans to a class or school commemoration of Veterans Day. Invite them to speak to students about the importance of service to one's country, including military and civilian service.
- Brainstorm with students a list of questions that could be used to interview a veteran. Students interview one or more of veterans and create an oral history of veterans in the community.
- Interview spouses, siblings, or children of these veterans about how being separated from the veteran during wartime affected them and what they remember.
- Start a class project of writing to hospitalized veterans, letting them know they aren't forgotten. Students can write about their interests and activities. They can also tell what they have learned about Veterans Day. (Note: A list of veteran organizations is included in this packet.)
- Provide drawing paper, markers, crayons and scissors. Have students design giant stamps to honor veterans. Have them cut scalloped edges around the stamps. The stamps can be given to the local veteran's hospital or to a VA center.
- Have students research the history and significance of medals and commendations awarded to these veterans and make a display giving details about each medal.

**Secondary Level  
Lesson Plans  
and  
Activities**

## **Veterans Day Lesson Plan**

**GRADE LEVEL/COURSE:** Social Studies, Secondary

**TITLE:** What is Veterans Day?

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To identify Veterans Day as the day Americans honor the men and women, living and dead, who have served in the United States military.

**SUGGESTED TIME:**

One hour

**MATERIALS/AIDS NEEDED:**

- a. Handout, "What is Veterans Day?"
- b. Handout, "Tomb of the Unknowns"
- c. Comprehension questions

**VOCABULARY**

Military	Memorial	Armistice
Veteran	Tomb	

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:**

1. Read the article, "What is Veterans Day?" Have students complete the following comprehension questions or discuss the questions as a class.
  - What is an armistice?
  - Why was Armistice Day celebrated on November 11<sup>th</sup>?
  - What was the original purpose of Armistice Day?
  - Why was Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day in 1954?
2. Also read the article, "Tomb of the Unknowns" and study the picture. Discuss the following:
  - a. Where is the tomb located?
  - b. Who is buried in the tomb?
  - c. What is the significance of the tomb guarded day and night by the U.S. Army?
  - d. What does the inscription, "A Soldier Known but to God" mean?
  - e. Explain the following statement: "The Tomb of the Unknowns" represents Americans respect for all veterans."

## **EXTENSION:**

Discuss the additional questions listed below:

- Has any member of your family served in your country's armed forces? Which branch? How long did they serve? What stories, if any, do they tell about the experience?
- Do you believe that a strong military is more important, less important, or of the same importance today as it was 50 years ago? Explain your answer.
- Do you believe people should be required to serve in the armed forces? Why or why not?
- What qualifications do you believe those who wish to serve in the armed forces should have?
- What, if anything, should disqualify individuals from serving in the armed forces?
- Should women be allowed to participate in combat? Why or why not?
- How could serving in the armed forces make someone more appreciative of their homeland and freedoms?
- Veterans of the past and of the present literally risk--and sometimes sacrifice--their lives to protect our lives and freedoms. What can we do to honor these men and women?

## What is Veterans Day?

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations, including the United States, and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of the Great War or World War I, “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

**Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

**Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

**Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World

War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The Uniforms Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to insure three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans' service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

## The Tomb of the Unknowns

In 1921, an unknown World War I soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington D.C., became the focal point of reverence for American veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the World War I was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor. (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These burials all took place on November 11th, at 11 a.m. giving universal recognition of the end of World War I. This was the day and time in 1918 when World War I ended. The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

An unknown soldier from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War were later buried in the tomb. The Tomb is guarded day and night by the United States Army. Visitors to Arlington National Cemetery can see the changing of the guard at the Tomb. On Veterans Day, there are special services at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the tomb of the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11:00 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes “Present Arms” at the tomb. The nation’s tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the playing of “Taps.”



Adapted from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

**Veterans Day  
Lesson Plan**

**GRADE LEVEL/COURSE:** Social Studies, Secondary

**TITLE:** Veterans Day Newspaper

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Identify and understand the events which led to the observance of Veterans Day as a national holiday.
2. Organize and write a newspaper summarizing the basic conflict of various wars in American history.
3. Locate places where events, which led to the observance of Veterans Day, took place.
4. Compare and contrast Veterans Day (Armistice Day) celebrations in different parts of the world.

**MATERIALS/AIDS NEEDED:**

Copies of the *History of Veterans Day* article

Dictionary

Internet Access

Copies of the *Veterans Day Research Worksheet*

Copies of the *Veterans of U.S. Wars and Their Dependents* handout

**SUGGESTED TIME:**

Three-four class periods (research required)

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:**

1. Divide students into small groups of three - four students each. Explain that each group will be responsible for producing a newspaper on a conflict in U.S. history.
2. Have students look up and write the definitions of the following vocabulary words:  
Veteran      Armistice      Memorial  
POW      Commemoration
3. After students have defined the words, check their understanding by leading a class discussion on what the words mean and how they are used in different contexts.
4. Have students re-read or review the *History of Veterans Day* article and review the *Veterans of U.S. Wars and Their Dependents*. (Both articles are included.)
5. Have students discuss why it is important to remember those who have fought for their country.
6. Generate a list of armed conflicts/wars with which your students are familiar. Help students by teaching them the names of conflicts that are unfamiliar to them.

The following is a list of the major conflicts in which American soldiers fought:

American Revolution  
War of 1812  
Mexican-American War  
Civil War  
Indian Wars  
Spanish-American War  
Mexican Border

World War I  
World War II  
Korean Conflict  
Vietnam War  
Grenada Conflict  
Persian Gulf War  
Iraq and Afghanistan Conflicts

7. Assign each group one of the conflicts to research. Tell students that they must be able to answer all of the questions on the *Veterans Day Research Worksheet* before they begin writing their newspaper article.
8. Review the guidelines for writing a newspaper article with the students. Inform them that in a newspaper article, the most important facts (who, what, when where, and why) are all included in the first paragraph of the article. The details and background should be included in paragraphs that appear later in the article.
9. Have each group write an article for a class newspaper about the war researched. Encourage students to look for additional information in textbooks, reference materials or on the Internet.
10. Once articles have been written, edited by the group, and proofread by their peers or teacher, ask students to put the articles together into a newspaper which can be produced electronically or by using paper and transparent tape.

### **ASSESSMENT STRATEGY:**

Peer evaluation can be conducted based on students participation and contributions to the group. Grading for total project can be based on accuracy of research, completeness, creativity, and organization.

### **SOURCES:**

The *History of Veterans Day* article was adapted from an article of the Department of Veterans Affairs website. The lesson plan was adapted for the Pearson Education website – [teachervision.fen.com/veterans-day/lesson-plan](http://teachervision.fen.com/veterans-day/lesson-plan)

## Veterans Day Research Worksheet

Conflict/war: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Using at least 3 sources (examples: textbooks, reference books, the Internet) answer each of the questions below about the conflict/war you are researching.

1. What were the basic issues that led to war?
2. Describe the major events leading up to the conflict.
3. What turned a disagreement into a war or armed conflict? When was war declared?
4. How long did the war last and during which years did fighting take place? (Specific dates are required for this question.)

5. How did the conflict come to an end?

6. Did the conflict result in a lasting peace?

7. How many American fought in the conflict? How many were killed?

8. Is there a memorial to the soldiers of the conflict you researched? If so, where is it and what does it look like?

9. List at least 3 sources your group used to answer the questions on this worksheet.

## Veterans of U.S. Wars and Their Dependents

Note: This information was published in 2007. No more recent updates have been found on the Internet.)

Veterans' benefits have existed since the origins of the nation. As of September 2007, over three million veterans, their dependents, and survivors of deceased veterans are receiving VA benefits and services.

The last dependent of a Revolutionary War veteran died in 1911; the War of 1812's last dependent died in 1946; and the last dependent of the Mexican War died in 1962. Some 108 children and 125 widows of Spanish-American War veterans are receiving benefits today. There is, in fact, 3 children of Civil War veterans who still draw VA benefits.

	Veterans	Children <sup>1</sup>	Parents	Surviving spouses
Civil War	—	3	—	—
Indian Wars	—	—	—	—
Spanish-American War	—	108	—	125
Mexican Border	—	16	—	63
World War I	4	3,639	—	6,670
World War II	406,289	15,300	186	227,412
Korean Conflict	221,923	3,348	372	60,917
Vietnam Era	1,109,576	9,647	3,426	155,258
Gulf War <sup>2</sup>	729,426	12,919	826	13,759
Total wartime	2,467,218	44,980	4,810	464,204
Nonservice-connected	324,686	19,764	—	181,585
Service-connected	2,735,559	28,454	6,132	315,192

1. Children connotes a minor or a dependent adult.

2. For VA benefits purposes, the Gulf War period of service remains open-ended and also includes those discharged from 1991 to date.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense. Web: [www.va.gov/pressrel/amwars01.htm](http://www.va.gov/pressrel/amwars01.htm)

Information Please® Database, © 2007 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Additional Secondary Activities

After students have learned about the history of Veterans Day, assign one or more of the following activities:

- Invite veterans to a class or school commemoration of Veterans Day. Invite them to speak to students about the importance of service to one's country, including military and civilian service.
- Brainstorm with students a list of questions that could be used to interview a veteran. Students interview one or more of veterans and create an oral history of veterans in the community.
- Interview spouses, siblings, or children of these veterans about how being separated from the veteran during wartime affected them and what they remember.
- Start a class project of writing to hospitalized veterans, letting them know they aren't forgotten. Students can write about their interests and activities. They can also tell what they have learned about Veterans Day. (Note: A list of veteran organizations is included in this packet.)
- Have students research the history and significance of medals and commendations awarded to these veterans and make a display giving details about each medal.
- At the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, a perpetual flame was lit on November 11, 1919, in honor of an unknown soldier; it has been burning ever since. Have students figure out the exact number of decades, years, months, weeks, and days the flame has been burning. Discuss why each country has an unknown, and what such memorials mean to families who never know for sure what happened to their loved ones. Discuss MIA's in Vietnam.
- After reading or studying various wars and conflicts in which the United States has been involved, have students complete one of the following writing activities:
  - ✓ You are in a battalion in France during World War I. You have endured weeks of extreme cold, hunger, illness, and the death of friends. Finally, you are able to write home to your family. You know that they are very concerned because they haven't heard from you in weeks. Write a letter telling them how much they have meant to you during one of the most difficult periods of your life.
  - ✓ At the beginning of World War II, you have recently graduated from high school and plan to enter college in a couple of months. When you come home one afternoon, you find 2 letters addressed to you in the mailbox. One is from the college of your choice, offering a full scholarship for the next 4 years. The other is from the U.S. government, stating that you have been drafted and must report for duty in 3 weeks. Write the college president a letter thanking him and explaining why you must decline the scholarship.

- ✓ In your school days during the Korean War, you and your girlfriends have shared many things. Now that you have graduated, they all want one thing: to get married, have a family, and buy a small house. But you want adventure first. Seeing the world is something you have always dreamed of. Now is your opportunity. Joining the WAVES (Naval military service for women) could turn that dream into a reality. But first you must convince your parents--what will you say?
- ✓ It is the height of the Vietnam War. All of your boyhood friends have volunteered for the armed services. Everywhere you look, you are reminded of the war. But you cannot go because of an asthmatic condition. Explain to those who are preparing to leave for boot camp how you feel about being left behind.
- ✓ It is 2010 and you are completing high school and contemplating entering the military. Write a series of 6-8 questions you wish to consider before making your choice to join the service or take another direction in your life. Consider the questions your family would have as well. Also consider your college and/or career plans.
- World War I has been called a "singing war" because so many memorable songs became popular during that war--and have remained popular to this day. Invite your students to learn a song popular in World War I: "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag," "Over There," or "The Old Grey Mare." Then use the song as a springboard for further exploration. Some of these songs were sung to recruit volunteers and encourage civilians to contribute to the war effort. What specific elements of the songs make people want to sing them? What might inspire young people to sign up? Compare the song lyrics to poems such as "It Shall Not Be Again!" by Thomas Curtis Clark and "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae. Are the songs realistic about war? What words might students expect to find in a realistic war song? What rhythm?  
**(These song lyrics are included.)**

## Song Lyrics

### Pack up your Troubles

#### First Verse

Private Perks is a funny little codger  
With a smile a funny smile.  
Five feet none, he's an artful little dodger  
With a smile a funny smile.  
Flush or broke he'll have his little joke,  
He can't be suppress'd.  
All the other fellows have to grin  
When he gets this off his chest, Hi!

#### Chorus (sung twice after each verse)

Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag,  
And smile, smile, smile,  
While you've a lucifer to light your fag,  
Smile, boys, that's the style.  
What's the use of worrying?  
It never was worth while, so  
Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag,  
And smile, smile, smile.

#### Second Verse

Private Perks went a-marching into Flanders  
With his smile his funny smile.  
He was lov'd by the privates and commanders  
For his smile his funny smile.  
When a throng of Bosches came along  
With a mighty swing,  
Perks yell'd out, "This little bunch is mine!  
Keep your heads down, boys and sing, Hi!

#### Third Verse

Private Perks he came back from Bosche-shooting  
With his smile his funny smile.  
Round his home he then set about recruiting  
With his smile his funny smile.  
He told all his pals, the short, the tall,  
What a time he'd had;  
And as each enlisted like a man  
Private Perks said 'Now my lad,' Hi!

Listen to a recording of this song at:

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/packupyourtroubles.htm>

## Over There

Johnnie, get your gun,  
Get your gun, get your gun,  
Take it on the run,  
On the run, on the run.  
Hear them calling, you and me,  
Every son of liberty.  
Hurry right away,  
No delay, go today,  
Make your daddy glad  
To have had such a lad.  
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,  
To be proud her boy's in line.  
(chorus sung twice)

Johnnie, get your gun,  
Get your gun, get your gun,  
Johnnie show the Hun  
Who's a son of a gun.  
Hoist the flag and let her fly,  
Yankee Doodle do or die.  
Pack your little kit,  
Show your grit, do your bit.  
Yankee to the ranks,  
From the towns and the tanks.  
Make your mother proud of you,  
And the old Red, White and Blue.  
(chorus sung twice)

### Chorus

Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word over there -  
That the Yanks are coming,  
The Yanks are coming,  
The drums rum-tumming  
Ev'rywhere.  
So prepare, say a pray'r,  
Send the word, send the word to beware.  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back till it's over  
Over there.

Listen to a recording of this song at:  
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/packupyourtroubles.htm>

## The Old Gray Mare

Adapted Spiritual  
Written By: Unknown  
Copyright Unknown

The old gray mare,  
She ain't what she used to be  
Ain't what she used to be,  
Ain't what she used to be  
The old gray mare,  
She ain't what she used to be  
Many long years ago.

Many long years ago,  
Many long years ago,  
The old gray mare,  
She ain't what she used to be  
Many long years ago.

The old gray mare,  
She kicked on the whiffletree,  
Kicked on the whiffletree,  
Kicked on the whiffletree  
The old gray mare,  
She kicked on the whiffletree  
Many long years ago.

Many long years ago,  
Many long years ago,  
The old gray mare,  
She kicked on the whiffletree  
Many long years ago.

# **Additional On-Line Resources**

## Web Resources

### **Department of Veterans Affairs (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>)**

This site provides links to content-rich web pages about the history of Veterans Day and the current celebrations associated with Veterans Day.

### **American Women in Uniform, Veterans Too! [www.userpages.aug.com/captbarb/](http://www.userpages.aug.com/captbarb/)**

An excellent source which includes links to biographies on women involved in U.S. conflicts from the American Revolution to the war in Iraq, but also includes photographs of women currently serving in areas of conflict and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the U.S.

### **Women in Military Service for American Memorial (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/>)**

In addition to background information on this unique memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the site provides data on women in the military, lesson plans and other useful resources.

### **The Origins of Veterans Day (<http://www1.va.gov/OPA/feature/celebrate/vetday.htm>)**

This site, hosted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, focuses on the origins of Veteran Day.

### **Activities for Veterans Day**

#### **<http://www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/veterans-day/index.html>**

This site includes activities for observing Veterans Day as well as links to related sites.

### **VA Kids 6–12th Grades (<http://www.va.gov/kids/6-12/index.asp>)**

Designed for middle and high school students, this site includes games and information about veterans.

### **VA Kids, Teachers' Page (<http://www.va.gov/kids/teachers/multicontent.asp?intPageID=3>)**

This section of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs web site offers resources for teachers and students.

### **Curriculum, Speakers, and Projects Brings Veterans Stories to the Classroom ([http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/curr288.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr288.shtml))**

Education World provides an extensive list of activities and project ideas to celebrate Veterans Day.



**Online Reference Resources  
Elementary and Secondary**

**Division of Instructional Technology, Instructional Materials,  
and Library Media Services**

## Elementary

The following online databases are available through the Library Media Services Virtual Library located at <http://it.dadeschools.net/library/index.htm>. The databases highlighted below contain resources, including primary sources/documents, which provide information on the history and observance of Veterans Day in the United States. Along with reference content, some of the online databases listed below include lesson plans, multimedia files (photographs, videos, charts/graphs), activities, worksheets, and answer keys. Contact your library media specialist for username and password.

All the online databases listed below may be accessed from the District's Virtual Library located at [http://virtuallibrary.dadeschools.net/elem\\_resources.htm](http://virtuallibrary.dadeschools.net/elem_resources.htm).

Database	Suggested Search Term(s)	Type of Files	Sample Search(es)
<b>Gale Kids InfoBits</b>	<i>Veterans Day</i>	Reference articles, magazine articles, newspaper articles, maps/flags and seals, charts & graphs, images	Enter search term <b>Veterans Day</b> . Click on "Veterans Day." <i>Kids InfoBits Presents: Holidays of the World</i> " to read about the history and celebration of Veterans Day.
<b>Grolier Online</b>	<i>Veterans Day, The Great War, armed forces, Air Force, Army, U. S. Marine Corps, Navy</i>	Encyclopedia articles, websites, media, news feature stories and magazines	Enter the search term <b>The Great War</b> . Read the article on the beginning of World War I and click on the Multimedia link on the bottom right to see video (map animation) of how World War I was started. Enter search terms Air Force, Army, U. S. Marine Corps, Navy for articles and photographs about the history of the United States Armed Forces.
<b>World Book Online</b>	<i>Soldiers, Veterans Day, Air Force, Army, U. S. Marine Corps, Navy</i>	Encyclopedia articles, tables, sounds, historical maps, pictures, videos, "back in time articles," special reports, web sites, research guides, timelines. (This database contains Spanish and French encyclopedias, <i>Enciclopedia Estudiantil</i> and <i>L'Encyclopédie Découverte</i> .)	Enter search term <b>soldiers</b> for articles and pictures of different kinds of soldiers at different points in history, such as Marines, Minutemen, Buffalo Soldiers, Green Mountain Boys, Airborne Troops, etc.  Enter search term <b>Veterans</b> and click on Department of Veteran Affairs to read about the history of this executive department of the US government which administers benefits for US veterans.

Related search terms: *Great War, Armistice Day, World War I, World War II, Uniforms Holiday Bill, Military Service, Veteran Affairs, Arc de Triomphe (perpetual flame), "the singing war," Medal of Honor, "Heroine of Groton," Armed Forces, Air Force, Army, Navy, Purple Heart, medals, commendations*

## Related Web Sites

### **Celebrating Veterans Day / *Military.com***

<http://www.military.com/veterans-day/>

**Summary:** Military.com connects servicemembers, military families and veterans to all the benefits of service — government benefits, scholarships, discounts, lifelong friends, mentors, great stories of military life or missions, and much more. This site provides information regarding the history of Veterans Day and different ways parents can celebrate Veterans Day with their children and teach them about the importance of this holiday.

### **The Veterans History Project / *Library of Congress***

**URL:** [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)

**Summary:** This site is brought to you from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The site was designed especially with young people in mind, and it tells the story of America's past. The Veterans History Project has collected, preserved, and made available the personal stories of American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them. These collections of firsthand accounts are gathered for use by researchers so that future generations may hear directly from veterans to better understand the realities of war.

### **Veterans Day / *Infoplease (Pearson Education)***

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/veteransday1.html>

**Summary:** This site contains Veterans' statistics, history of the holiday, war poetry, and more.

### **Veterans Day History / *History.com***

<http://www.history.com/topics/history-of-veterans-day>

**Summary:** This site contains articles, links, videos, and photo galleries related to the history and observance of Veterans Day.

### **Veterans' Stories: The Veterans History Project / *Library of Congress***

**URL:** <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/veterans/pdf/overview.pdf>

**Summary:** This is the teacher guide/primary source set that corresponds to The Veterans History Project and contains links to primary sources. These items can take many forms from personal narratives (audio and video-taped interviews, written memoirs) and correspondence (letters, postcards, v-mail, personal diaries) to visual materials (photographs, drawings, scrapbooks).

## Secondary

The following online databases are available through the Library Media Services Virtual Library located at <http://it.dadeschools.net/library/index.htm>. The databases highlighted below contain resources, including primary sources/documents, which provide information on the history and observance of Veterans Day in the United States. Along with reference content, some of the online databases listed below include lesson plans, multimedia files (photographs, videos, charts/graphs), activities, worksheets, and answer keys. Contact your library media specialist for username and password.

All the online databases listed below may be accessed from the District's Virtual Library located at [http://virtuallibrary.dadeschools.net/sec\\_resources.htm](http://virtuallibrary.dadeschools.net/sec_resources.htm).

Database	Suggested Search Term(s)	Type of Files	Sample Search(es)
<b><i>Grolier Online</i></b>	<i>Veterans Day, The Great War, armed forces, Air Force, Army, U. S. Marine Corps, Navy</i>	Encyclopedia articles, websites, media, news feature stories and magazines	Enter the search term <b>The Great War</b> . Read the article on the beginning of World War I and click on the Multimedia link on the bottom right to see video (map animation) of how World War I was started. Enter search terms Air Force, Army, U. S. Marine Corps, Navy for articles and photographs about the history of the United States Armed Forces.
<b><i>Facts on File Online</i></b>	<i>Veterans Day</i>	Encyclopedia articles, biographies, narrative histories, primary sources, images, videos, tables, maps, charts	Enter the search term <b>Veterans Day</b> . Click on Media to see a picture of African American Union Army Veterans march in a Memorial Day parade in 1912. The caption beneath the picture reveals that 9 percent of Union soldiers who fought in Civil War were African American. Enter search term <b>Armistice Day</b> and click on Media to see pictures of Americans celebrating the Armistice in Philadelphia and a video of an Armistice celebration in Paris.

<b>Gale</b>	<i>Veterans Day</i>	Magazines, newspapers, academic journals, eBooks, podcasts, images, maps, charts, graphs	Enter the search term <b>Veterans Day</b> . View several images Veterans Day observances by some world leaders, including past president Bill Clinton and current president Barack Obama. Click on Podcast link titled <b>Veterans' Voices: Coming Home From Korea</b> to listen to a radio broadcast from National Public Radio featuring an American Army veteran who served in the Korean War.
<b>SIRS Knowledge Source</b>	<i>Veterans Day</i>	Newspapers, magazines, government documents, primary sources, reference, graphics, websites.	Enter the search term <b>Veterans Day</b> . Click on the link titled "The Birthplace of Veterans Day" to read about the first observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 1953 in Emporia, Kansas. Click on the <b>Graphics/Media</b> link on the left to see some images of Veterans Day observances.
<b>World Book Online</b>	<i>Soldiers, Veterans Day, Air Force, Army, U. S. Marine Corps, Navy</i>	Encyclopedia articles, tables, sounds, historical maps, pictures, videos, "back in time articles," special reports, web sites, research guides, timelines. (This database contains Spanish and French encyclopedias, <i>Enciclopedia Estudiantil</i> and <i>L'Encyclopédie Découverte</i> .)	Enter search term <b>Soldiers</b> for articles and pictures of different kinds of soldiers at different points in history, such as Marines, Minutemen, Buffalo Soldiers, Green Mountain Boys, Airborne Troops, etc.  Enter search term <b>Veterans</b> and click on Department of Veteran Affairs to read about the history of this executive department of the US government which administers benefits for US veterans.

Related search terms: *Great War, Armistice Day, World War I, World War II, Uniforms Holiday Bill, Military Service, Veteran Affairs, Arc de Triomphe (perpetual flame), "the singing war," Medal of Honor, "Heroine of Groton," Armed Forces, Air Force, Army, Navy, Purple Heart, medals, commendations*

## Related Web Sites

### **Celebrating Veterans Day / *Military.com***

<http://www.military.com/veterans-day/>

**Summary:** Military.com connects servicemembers, military families and veterans to all the benefits of service — government benefits, scholarships, discounts, lifelong friends, mentors, great stories of military life or missions, and much more. This site provides information regarding the history of Veterans Day and different ways parents can celebrate Veterans Day with their children and teach them about the importance of this holiday.

### **The Veterans History Project / *Library of Congress***

**URL:** [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)

**Summary:** This site is brought to you from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The site was designed especially with young people in mind, and it tells the story of America's past. The Veterans History Project has collected, preserved, and made available the personal stories of American war veterans and civilian workers who supported them. These collections of firsthand accounts are gathered for use by researchers so that future generations may hear directly from veterans to better understand the realities of war.

### **United States Department of Veteran Affairs / *United States Government***

**URL:** <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>

**Summary:** This site has great information from the US government regarding the history and observance of Veterans Day. Look for teacher guides, links for young children, and information regarding the history of Veteran's day.

### **Veterans Day / *Infoplease (Pearson Education)***

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/veteransday1.html>

**Summary:** This site contains Veterans' statistics, history of the holiday, war poetry, and more.

### **Veterans Day History / *History.com***

<http://www.history.com/topics/history-of-veterans-day>

**Summary:** This site contains articles, links, videos, and photo galleries related to the history and observance of Veterans Day.

### **Veterans' Stories: The Veterans History Project / *Library of Congress***

**URL:** <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/veterans/pdf/overview.pdf>

**Summary:** This is the teacher guide/primary source set that corresponds to The Veterans History Project and contains links to primary sources. These items can take many forms from personal narratives (audio and video-taped interviews, written memoirs) and correspondence (letters, postcards, v-mail, personal diaries) to visual materials (photographs, drawings, scrapbooks).

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**Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992** - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

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*Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.*

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