

# VETERANS DAY LESSON PLAN

## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lesson: Veterans Day

<p><b>OBJECTIVES:</b> CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p>	<p><b>STRATEGIES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> K-W-L</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Large Group</li> </ul>				
<p><b>MATERIALS:</b></p>	<p>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of Veterans Day K-W-L Worksheet; Copies of the History of Armistice/Veterans Day Information Reading Activity; Copies of the History of Veterans Day Writing and Questions Worksheet; Copies of the Veterans Day Word Scramble Puzzle</p>				
<p><b>Engage:</b> Hook the students</p>	<p>Hand out the Veterans Day K-W-L. Allow students time to fill in the first and second section of the K-W-L worksheet.</p> <p>Before playing the video clip, tell the students to take notes during the video, this information can go in the “L” column of their K-W-L worksheet. Play the YouTube video, <i>What Does Being a Veteran Mean to You?</i>  <a href="https://youtu.be/floZanYgCTk">https://youtu.be/floZanYgCTk</a></p> <p>After viewing the video, ask students to share with the rest of the class one thing they learned about veterans from the video.</p>				
<p><b>Explore:</b> Students make sense of a concept through observations.</p>	<p>Students will read the History of Armistice/Veterans Day Information sheet. Students will complete the History of Veterans Day Writing and Questions Worksheet.</p> <p>Students will complete the Veterans Day Word Scramble Puzzle.</p> <p>Students will complete the Veterans Day K-W-L Worksheet.</p> <p>Students will brainstorm a way to serve veterans in their local communities on Veterans Day. See the last page of this lesson plan for suggestions for service.</p>				
<p><b>Explain:</b> Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Veteran commemoration</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Armistice proclamation</td> <td style="width: 25%;">World War I mobilization</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Woodrow Wilson Gerald Ford</td> </tr> </table>	Veteran commemoration	Armistice proclamation	World War I mobilization	Woodrow Wilson Gerald Ford
Veteran commemoration	Armistice proclamation	World War I mobilization	Woodrow Wilson Gerald Ford		
<p><b>Elaborate:</b> Students apply what they have learned.</p>	<p>Students will complete the Veterans Day K-W-L Worksheet to produce in written form what they learned about Armistice/Veterans Day. If the students have any questions from the “What I Want to Know” section of the K-W-L worksheet, go over those questions with the class. Students write a 3-paragraph essay on how Armistice Day evolved to Veterans Day, as the United States became involved in other combat operations. Students will answer questions from the History of Veterans Day Reading Activity. Students will complete the Veterans Day Word Scramble Puzzle.</p>				
<p><b>Evaluate:</b> assessment.</p>	<p>Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.</p>				
<p><b>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</b></p>	<p>Students will participate in an activity to Remember and Honor Veterans on Veterans Day. Students are encouraged to participate in the Wreaths Across America Oral History Project by <a href="#">Clicking Here</a>.</p>				

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Veterans Day K-W-L**

**What I KNOW:**

**What I WANT to KNOW:**

**What I LEARNED:**

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### History of Armistice/Veterans Day Information Sheet

Veterans Day is a holiday in the United States observed on November 11, to honor and thank all military personnel who serve or have served in the armed forces of the United States in times of war and peace. November 11 is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918—on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month.

On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was celebrated for the first time. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the day should be “filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory.” There were plans for parades, public meetings, and a brief suspension of business activities at 11am.

In 1926, the United States officially recognized the end of World War I and declared that the anniversary of the armistice should be commemorated with prayer and thanksgiving. Congress also requested that the president should “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.”

On May 13, 1938, Congress passed an Act, which made November 11 a legal holiday, known as Armistice Day. This day was originally intended to honor veterans of World War I. A few years later, World War II required the largest mobilization of service men in the history of the United States and the American forces fought in Korea.

In 1954, the veterans service organizations urged Congress to change the word “Armistice” to “Veterans.” Congress approved this change and on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor all American veterans, wherever and whenever they had served.

In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which sought to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees—and encourage tourism and travel—by celebrating four national holidays (Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day) on Mondays. The observation of Veterans Day was set as the fourth Monday in October. The first Veterans Day under the new law was Monday,

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October 25, 1971; confusion ensued, as many states disapproved of this change, and continued to observe the holiday on its original date.

In 1975, after it became evident that the actual date of Veterans Day carried historical and patriotic significance to many Americans, President Gerald Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th beginning in 1978.

Veterans Day is observed in many places by parades and ceremonies. Other places have a period of silence lasting two minutes at 11am. Some schools are closed on Veterans Day. Other schools do not close but choose to mark the occasion with special assemblies and other activities.

Veterans Day is officially observed on November 11. However, if it falls on a weekday, many communities hold their celebrations on the weekend closest to this date. This is to enable more people to attend and participate in the events. Federal Government offices are closed on November 11. If Veterans Day falls on a Saturday, they are closed on Friday November 10. If Veterans Day fall on a Sunday, they are closed on Monday November 12.

Every Veterans Day, Arlington National Cemetery holds an annual memorial service. The cemetery is home to graves of over 400,000 people, most of whom served in the military. The difference in Veterans Day and Memorial Day, Memorial Day pays tribute to all American veterans who have died.

Great Britain, France, Australia, and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Great Britain, and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

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## Veterans Day Writing Assignments

1. Using the information from the Armistice/Veterans Day Information Sheets, write a 3-paragraph essay about how Veterans Day has evolved since it started over a century ago. (Answer on the back of this paper, use additional sheets as needed.)

2. Is Veterans Day a holiday we should still observe? Why (or why not)? Explain your answer in a well-developed paragraph. (Answer below.)

3. Answer the following questions:

- Why does Veterans Day take place on November 11 each year?
- Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day. Why was this changed?
- President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day should be “filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory.” What did he mean?
- Is Veterans Day celebrated in other countries? If so, when?
- What’s the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

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### Veterans Day Word Scramble

NARLCOMAITOP		OMABCT	
ITRMSIEAC		LAEOMMRI	
ELAMD		REEAVTN	
SEHREO		BRAVERY	
ARYMLITI		NOORH	
GSCNRESO		UBETRTI	
ECERVIS		DEOSSLIR	
GOAUREC		NKHTAS	
OMBNVERE		YERITGITN	
AHODYLI		NGIYTDI	

service	combat	congress	soldiers	integrity
veteran	tribute	bravery	thanks	medal
memorial	courage	November	honor	dignity
military	heroes	proclamation	holiday	armistice

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### Veterans Day Word Scramble

#### Answer Key

NARLCOMAITOP	proclamation	OMABCT	combat
ITRMSIEAC	armistice	LAEOMMRI	memorial
ELAMD	medal	REEAVTN	veteran
SEHREO	heroes	BRAVERY	bravery
ARYMLITI	military	NOORH	honor
GSCNRESO	congress	UBETRTI	tribute
ECERVIS	service	DEOSSLIR	soldiers
GOAUREC	courage	NKHTAS	thanks
OMBNVERE	November	YERITGITN	integrity
AHODYLI	holiday	NGIYTDI	dignity

service	combat	congress	soldiers	integrity
veteran	tribute	bravery	thanks	medal
memorial	courage	November	honor	dignity
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### “Find a Way to Serve” on Veterans Day

- Make Thank You cards to Veterans you know in your community, or in a local VA Home or VA Hospital. Let them know you appreciate their service to our country.
- Help an elderly veteran with yard work.
- Collect items for “Survival Back-Packs” for homeless veterans with socks, caps, gloves, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and other toiletries to be distributed to homeless vets in your community. Many large cities hold Operation Stand Downs for Veterans. For more information, [Click Here](#).
- Organize a Checkers, board game or card game tournament at your local VA Home. Coordinate with the nursing home staff and plan a fun afternoon for the residents and students alike!
- Write letters to be included in soldier care packages. [Operation Gratitude](#) sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.
- Organize a Zoom Meeting between your class at school and a local VA Home. Discuss what their childhoods were like growing up, what kind of classes they took in school. Did they live in town or in the country, what kinds of chores and activities did they participate in when they were your age. Document their responses and share with other classes in your school. If some of your interviewees have a talent like singing or playing the piano, maybe they could share those talents with the class the next time you Zoom. Once you have met the veterans, select a “pin-pal” you can correspond with by letter every few weeks.
- Be a companion to a local senior citizen who is a veteran. Make cards, surprise them with visits around their birthday or sing carols for them around the holidays.