Memorial Day Lesson Plan
5th & 6th Grades

Lest We Forget
**Wreaths Across America**  
**Lesson Plan**

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<th>Teacher:</th>
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| Grades: 5th and 6th | Lesson: Memorial Day; Service-Learning Project on Memorial Day in Remembrance of Our Fallen Heroes |

**OBJECTIVES:** NCSSS, 1. CULTURE Through the study of culture and cultural diversity, learners understand how human beings create, learn, share, and adapt to culture, and appreciate the role of culture in shaping their lives and society, as well the lives and societies of others.

**STRATEGIES:**
- Drawing/Coloring
- Writing
- Word Web Worksheet
- Collaboration
- Reflection Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

*Before conducting this lesson, make sure you are aware of students who may have parents deployed in the Military, or who may be Gold Star Children.*

**MATERIALS:**
- Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of the Memorial Day Word Web Worksheet; copies of *America’s White Table* Story Elements Worksheet; copies of *America’s White Table* Matching Worksheet; copies of the Making a Memorial Day Quilt Activity.

**Engage:** Hook the students
- Activity – Hand out the Memorial Day Word Web Worksheet. Give the students a few minutes to complete the word web.
- Play the History of Memorial Day Video, https://youtu.be/YChfpVD5xpk

**Explore:** Students make sense of a concept through observations.
- Answer the following Reflection Questions from *America’s White Table* video:
  - Why did the family set up this small white table?
  - What effect did it have on their Uncle John?
  - How do you think setting the white table would affect Veterans that we know today?

**Explain:** Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.
- Decoration Day
- Memorial Day
- Poppies
- armed forces
- Civil War
- Vietnam War
- POW
- MIA
- Hero

**Elaborate:** Students apply what they have learned.
- Students will complete: the K-W-L Memorial Day Worksheet; *America’s White Table* Story Elements Worksheet; *America’s White Table* Matching Worksheet; draw and color the pieces of the Memorial Day Quilt Drawing sheet

**Evaluate:**
- Teacher will choose the items to be used for formal and informal assessment.

**Enrichment/Service-Learning Project**
- Reminder: The Friday before Memorial Day is National Poppy Day, wear a red poppy in remembrance of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day. For more information on National Poppy Day, go to [https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Day](https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Day)
- Students can pick from many projects; placing small flags on the graves of fallen heroes at a local cemetery; making cards for veterans in a local VA Home, VA Hospital or nursing home; share what you have learned about Memorial Day in class with your family and friends; participate in the Wreaths Across America Youth Service Project available for download [here](https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Day).

Remember-Honor-Teach
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: ____________________  Date: ____________________

Grades: 5th and 6th

Lesson: Memorial Day; Service-Learning Project on Memorial Day in Remembrance of Our Fallen Heroes

Student Name ____________________

Memorial Day Word Web
Write what you know about Memorial Day in the spaces provided. Add spaces if necessary.
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

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Student Name______________________

Story Elements for America’s White Table By Margot Raven

Name of the Story: ___________________________

Setting: ___________________________

Characters: ___________________________

Plot: ___________________________

Summarize the Story:

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Theme (Lesson Learned):

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Did you enjoy the story:

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Remember-Honor-Teach
America’s White Table By Margot Raven

The table honors the men and women who served in America’s Armed Forces, "You are not forgotten so long as there is one left in whom your memory remains."

Write the word from the WORD BANK below.

1. _______________________________To remind us of the life, and the blood that was shed.

2. _______________________________Reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

3. _______________________________Upside-down to symbolize their inability to share this evening with us.

4. _______________________________Left empty and tilted to show the missing soldiers.

5. _______________________________Round to show our everlasting devotion and concern for our fallen and missing comrades.

6. _______________________________It is white to symbolize the purity of soldiers’ motives when answering the call to duty.

7. _______________________________Often black as a reminder of the isolation, deprivation, and cruel fate our missing.

8. _______________________________It is red to symbolize our commitment and continued determination to account for our missing.

9. _______________________________Represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country.

10. _______________________________Reminds us of the tears endured by those missing and their families who still seek answers.

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<tr>
<th>table</th>
<th>glass</th>
<th>chair</th>
<th>rose</th>
<th>book of faith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>salt</td>
<td>napkin</td>
<td>tablecloth</td>
<td>vase tied with ribbon</td>
<td>lemon slice</td>
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</tbody>
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Stories from the Library-Glencoe

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Mail Student Name__________________________

**Making a Memorial Day Quilt**

Using information you learned in America’s White Table, draw your version of what a Missing Man Table would look like. In the United States, Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day honors those who have died while serving in the armed forces, and those who are missing in action. In the square below, draw and color a picture to remember and honor the brave men and women who died protecting our freedoms. When all of the pictures are finished, cut out the squares, and join them all together to make a class Memorial Day Remembrance Quilt.