

April The Month of the Military Child
Lesson Plan
Grades 4-6



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date: Month of April-Month of the Military Child
Grade: 4-6	Lesson: The Month of the Military Child; "Find a Way to Serve"-Recognize & Celebrate the Military Child

<p>OBJECTIVES: NCSS 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. 4. INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY Personal identity is shaped by family, peers, culture, and institutional influences. Through this theme, students examine the factors that influence an individual's personal identity, development, and actions.</p>		<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Reading <input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group <p>*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.</p>		
MATERIALS:		Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Grades 4-6: copies of The Military Child Acrostic Poem Worksheet; Grades 4-6: copies of the Month of the Military Child Word Search Puzzle; Grades 4-5: copies of Coloring Sheet with Thank You Note; Grade 6: copies of the article by Margaret Mason		
Engage: Hook the students		Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner and share their answer. Provide students with the definition of an idiom. An idiom is a phrase which has a meaning that is commonly understood by speakers of the language, but whose meaning is often different from the normal meaning of the words. An example of an idiom, "I can read her like a book." T/P/S Question: What does our example of an idiom mean?		
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.		Play the video clip, "A Walk in My Shoes: Military Life" https://youtu.be/EqvHKJvEWtU?t=1389 (the interview with the military child ends at 31:12, if you would like to end it there) Discussion: What is the significance of the name of the video "A Walk in My Shoes?" What are other derivatives of the same idiom? Share page 2 of lesson plan on the smart board, discuss each component; Grade 6: Read the article, <i>How Military Upbringing Shaped My Future</i> by Margaret Mason		
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.		deployment	acronym	active duty
		base	MOMC	idiom
		military brat	fort	Gold Star Child
Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.		Grades 4-6: Students should complete The Military Child Acrostic Poem Worksheet; Grades 4-6: Students should complete the Month of the Military Child Word Search; Grades 4-5: Students should complete the Coloring/Thank You Sheet		
Evaluate: assessment.		Worksheets, oral question/answer, reflection questions		
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project		In April, make posters and signs, place them up around the school celebrating military children. Wear Purple on Fridays throughout the month of April. Hold a school assembly, inviting the parents of military children to the assembly. Recognize each parent and their child, give them a special certificate or letters thanking the parent and the child for their sacrifices. Purple Up!!! On April 15 th , celebrating all military children!		

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APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

- The month of April celebrates the Month of the Military Child. **MOMC** is the acronym for Month of the Military Child.
- An acronym is a word formed by abbreviating a phrase by combining certain letters of words in the phrase (often the first initial of each) into a single term.
- Purple is the color associated with the Month of the Military Child.
- April 15th of each year celebrates **Purple Up! For Military Kids Day!**
- The Dandelion is the official flower of the Military Child because Dandelions are a unique flower. They have the ability to grant wishes, they are resilient and they grow wherever the wind takes them.
- Military Brat-The term is actually a term of endearment (affection) and most children of military personnel often refer to themselves as a "military brat." The term originated in 1921, British Regiment Attached Travelers (as they were called) traveled abroad with British troops. BRAT soon became a term only for children of those troops. The name was adopted elsewhere, including the United States.
- Military children are twice as likely to join the military, as of 2016, 80% of troops who joined the military between 2012 and 2013 came from a family with at least one military-connected family member.
- Nearly 80% of military children attend public schools throughout the United States.
- The average military family moves three times more often than their civilian counterpart. A military child moves an average of 10 times while growing up, and some have moved as many as 36 times.
- Approximately two million military children have experienced a parent deploying overseas since 9/11/2001.
- What does deployment mean? the movement of troops or equipment to a place or position for military action.
- There are currently 1.2 million military children of active-duty members worldwide.

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The Military Child Acrostic Poem

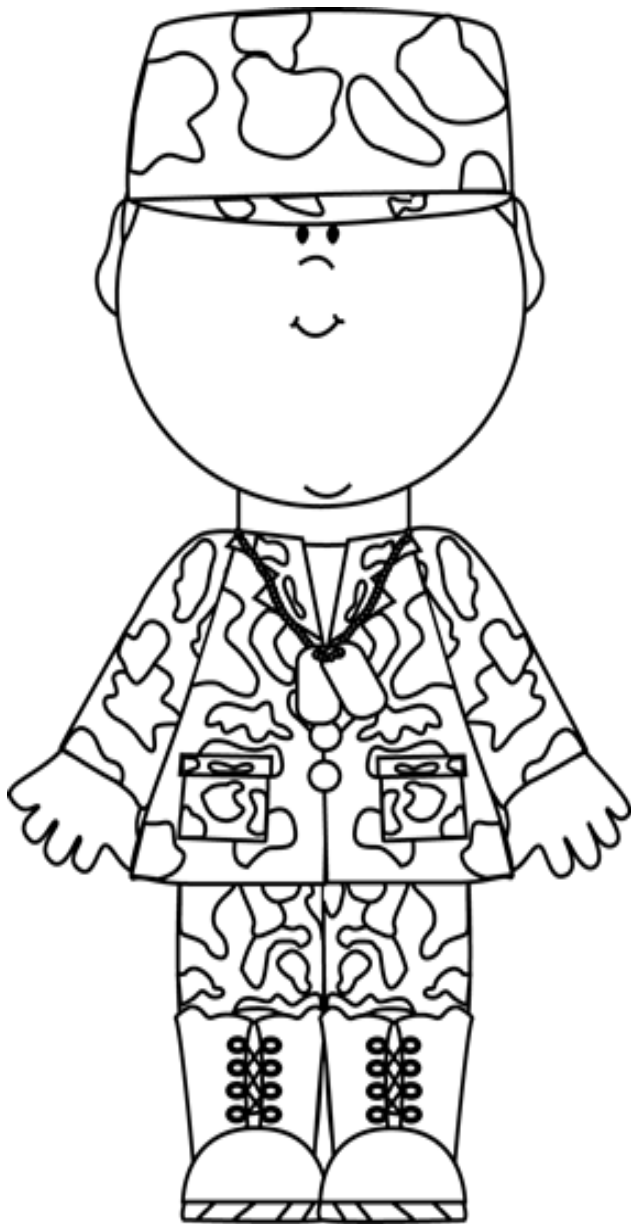
Student Name _____

Create an Acrostic Poem using the letters for the words The Military Child. Remember in an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line, when read vertically, must spell out the topic of the poem. Each letter should be used for words or stanzas describing "The Military Child".

T	
H	
E	
M	
I	
L	
I	
T	
A	
R	
Y	
C	
H	
I	
L	
D	

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Color the picture and write a note of thanks to a Military Child for their sacrifices!

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MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD WORD SEARCH

H	I	A	J	K	M	A	R	I	N	E	S	L	M	C
N	B	T	P	Q	I	R	S	T	U	C	P	V	W	O
X	A	A	Z	R	L	A	B	C	D	I	A	E	F	A
G	S	R	I	J	I	K	L	M	N	F	C	O	F	S
P	E	B	P	Q	T	L	R	S	T	I	E	T	R	T
U	V	Y	W	U	A	X	Y	Z	N	R	F	A	E	G
A	I	R	F	O	R	C	E	B	E	C	O	C	E	U
D	E	A	F	G	Y	P	H	I	M	A	R	J	D	A
K	L	T	M	N	C	O	L	P	Y	S	C	Q	O	R
R	S	I	T	U	H	V	W	E	O	X	E	R	M	D
N	Y	L	Z	A	I	B	C	D	L	E	F	O	G	J
A	H	I	I	J	L	K	L	M	P	N	O	N	P	Q
V	Q	M	S	T	D	A	N	D	E	L	I	O	N	R
Y	M	R	A	U	V	W	X	Y	D	Z	A	H	R	D

April	Navy	Marines	Space Force
Army	Military Child	Air Force	Deployment
Dandelion	Purple	Coast Guard	Base
Sacrifice	Honor	Freedom	Military Brat

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ANSWER KEY MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD WORD SEARCH

H	I	A	J	K	M	A	R	I	N	E	S	L	M	C
N	B	T	P	Q	I	R	S	T	U	C	P	V	W	O
X	A	A	Z	R	L	A	B	C	D	I	A	E	F	A
G	S	R	I	J	I	K	K	M	N	F	C	O	F	S
P	E	B	P	Q	T	L	R	S	T	I	E	T	R	T
U	V	Y	W	U	A	X	Y	Z	N	R	F	A	E	G
A	I	R	F	O	R	C	E	B	E	C	O	C	E	U
D	E	A	F	G	Y	P	H	I	M	A	R	J	D	A
K	L	T	M	N	C	O	L	P	Y	S	C	Q	O	R
R	S	I	T	U	H	V	W	E	O	X	E	R	M	D
N	Y	L	Z	A	I	B	C	D	L	E	F	O	G	J
A	H	I	I	J	L	K	L	M	P	N	O	N	P	Q
V	Q	M	S	T	D	A	N	D	E	L	I	O	N	R
Y	M	R	A	U	V	W	X	Y	D	Z	A	H	R	D

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How Military Upbringing Shaped My Future

By MARGARET MASON

Jul 18, 2016

https://www.theredstonerocket.com/special_reports/article_709e2b98-fc08-11e5-8b6b-a7f23412feb2.html

Where are you from?

This simple question – a staple icebreaker within any social circle – prompts a much longer response from the military child. I always hesitate before answering, "Alabama," and am generally met with more questions. Ramble through an uncomfortable explanation, count states on your fingers, share your life story, squirm in the silence that follows. "Are your parents military?"

Growing up in a military family, you start to notice substantial differences between your concept of "normal" and that of the average child. Your friends take an annual vacation to Key West? Your family makes an annual trek to Eglin Air Force Base to unwind on the military beach in American flag backpack chairs. Your friends were born in connecting hospital rooms? You aren't sure of the exact hospital you were born in, nor have you ever returned.

For a shy, introverted student who made their mom order for them at restaurants until the unacceptably old age of 11, moving every two years was terrifying. The first time pulling up to a new school, I always begged my mom to reconsider home schooling. Thankfully, she forced me to go and I dedicate my excellent education to her refusal to let me hide at home.

By the fifth move, every military child undoubtedly has developed their own social tactics for working the crowd at a new school. My foolproof move – revealing my military upbringing – was to find someone else standing alone looking awkward and select them to befriend. Like there's strength in numbers, there's weakness in one and a greater chance to infiltrate. If you substitute "making friends" with "winning a war" it's pretty much the same. Add in a really cool pair of shoes or powerful drone and you also have the upper hand in friendship, war and probably love.

While most studies refer to the negative implications of growing up in a military family – attachment issues, placelessness, difficulty making friends and inability to show emotion – there are several skills learned as a "brat" that create the perfect formula for accomplished, respectful adults. Although I felt personally insulted by the term "Military Brat" in my 8-year-old brain, once I learned it stood for "Born Rough and Tough" I felt empowered. To this degree, I credit my military family with the confidence and independence I now carry through life.

Adjusting to constant change, you are especially prepared for the inevitable upheaval everyone experiences when they graduate high school, go to college, enter the workforce, and become an adult. Prepared to pack and unpack all my belongings with ease, moving from home to dorm to apartment to second apartment all in three years was a piece of cake – as much as my parents wish I stayed in a dorm. I never felt too terribly attached to locations and learned early on that people make a home. Knowing this, I felt I could conquer any social situation or drastic change.

Even though I may have moved approximately nine times more than my roommate, within the military world there is a sense of community unlike any other. The shared experience forges bonds that stay intact despite a changing address. Although I haven't known my current circle of friends since kindergarten, my social network is larger than most – and my Facebook timeline is entertainingly diverse.

In a culture of rules and orders, military children have a heightened discipline, which extends beyond cleaning your room or completing your chores before being allowed to play. In my own life, this

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learned discipline fostered internal expectations that today lead me to carefully budget my time, dedicate countless hours to school and strategically plan out my future. Watching my father, my father's father and my mother's father exercise discipline and diligence both in and out of uniform, it felt natural to follow suit.

Along with discipline, military children have a greater understanding of patriotism and most likely know all the words to their branch's fight song. It's different for us – it's personal. My grandfather on both sides joined the Army with little to their name and retired successful and happy. My dad still serves active duty, dressing in combat boots and camouflage daily. I will undoubtedly cry whenever I hear a sad country song about a Soldier overseas or watch a homecoming video on YouTube.

The most important thing I've learned watching my dad is service. Service to your friends, service to your family and indiscriminate service to your country. Behind each Soldier is a powerful purpose to defend, protect and preserve. Unlike the average profession with a monetary motivation, military men and women chose to sacrifice themselves for a worthy cause.

Entering adulthood, Army brats carry key values with them: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Sound familiar? I thank my dad for being an inspiring military leader and dedicating himself to the country. I thank my dad for teaching me to look beyond myself and recognize my social obligation. I thank my dad for raising me a military child.

Maybe I get restless living somewhere for longer than three years, maybe I don't know where my second-grade best friend ended up, maybe I don't know where my dad was for my first birthday. But I do know that my dad was always home at night to sit with me until I fell asleep. I always knew despite the obvious absence that my dad loved me – and loved his country. When I graduate next year, I know I want to go out into the world and do something that matters.

Born rough and tough, military children are recognizably different. My values, beliefs and goals are shaped by my upbringing. As a military child, I would like to thank my military family and all other military families not only for their sacrifice but also for making me a better human being – one national anthem at a time.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does the author state the acronym BRAT stands for?
2. According to the author, what key values do "army brats" carry with them as they enter adulthood?
3. What similarities do you see in your life and the life Margaret lived as a child growing up?
4. What differences do you see in your life and the life Margaret lived as a child growing up?