





Veterans Day PowerPoint Teacher Guide:

- Introduction: 5 minutes
 - Slide 1: Discuss the guiding question
 - Veterans Day: Who are we honoring in November?
- Activity: 15-20 minutes
 - Use the PPT Teacher guide to go through the PowerPoint and discuss information about Veterans Day, who we are honoring and why it is a holiday.
 - As you go through the PowerPoint, give students time to fill in their Worksheets.
 - o The headings in the worksheet do not directly match the PowerPoint headlines. Use this guide:
 - "History": Slides 2 and 7
 - "Meaning": Slides 4 6
 - "Honoring": Slides 3 4
 - "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier": Slides 8 9
 - "What does Veterans Day mean to me?" is a personal reflection question, but can be related to Slide 11
- Reflection & Conclusion: 5 minutes
 - o After students have had a chance to answer the reflection question (What does Veterans Day mean to me?), students can volunteer to share answers with the whole class or share with a partner or small group.

Slide Text Screenshot 1 Veterans Day Who are we honoring in November? Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Veterans Day is November 11.

- Why is it a holiday?
- Who are we recognizing?
- Are there any other holidays that are similar to it?
- How do you observe Veterans Day?

Caption:

The State and Territorial Flag cordon marches into place for the National Veterans Day Observation at Arlington National Cemetery. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser, 2019)











Slide Text Screenshot

2 Origins

- Originally called "Armistice Day"
- A day to honor veterans World War I (1914-1918) veterans
- In 1938, Congress made Armistice Day a holiday.
- In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all military veterans.

ORIGINS

- Originally called "Armistice Day"
- A day to honor World War I (1914-1918) veterans
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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- Armistice Day was the day World War I ended in 1918.
- November 11 became a day for celebrating peace and honoring veterans of World War I.
- While it was first observed in 1919, it became a U.S. holiday in 1938.
- After World War II (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953), the name was changed to Veterans Day in the U.S. Changing the name expanded the meaning of the holiday to honor the sacrifices of all military veterans, whether they served in a particular conflict or not.

*(Dates) indicate the years of U.S. participation in the conflict.

Caption:

An Armistice Day parade held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1942. (LOC/Marjory Collins)



Slide Text Screenshot

3

Observances Today

- Not everyone gets Veterans Day off
- Many people work or go to school on Veterans Day.
- Some communities and organizations hold ceremonies to honor veterans.
- Even in school, it's a good day to be grateful for veterans.

OBSERVANCES TODAY

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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- Should schools take Veterans Day off?
- States, local governments, and private businesses choose their own holidays and many stay open on Veterans Day.









- Every year, Arlington National Cemetery hosts the National Veterans Day Observance.
 Thousands attend the ceremony held in Memorial Amphitheater, during which the president, vice president or other high-ranking official gives a speech.
 - o What ceremonies are held in your community or at your school?
- If you don't have school on Veterans Day, what can you do to honor veterans?
 - Alternate question: If you didn't have school on Veterans Day, how would you use the day to honor veterans?

The National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery involves veterans and active duty military personnel. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser, 2018 and 2019)

(Note: there are 4 images, but only 1 caption)





Slide Text Screenshot

4 Meaning

- Honors every veteran who has served the United States
- Honors those who served in any war or during peacetime
- The focus is on gratitude for living veterans and active duty members.

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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- Services and ceremonies on this day often focus on recognizing veterans and expressing gratitude for them.
- Veterans Day is not just for those who fought in a war: it's a day to show appreciation for anyone who has served in the U.S. military.
- Veterans Day is also an opportunity for people to reflect on freedoms that Americans enjoy because of the military service members who have kept the United States safe. Some people write letters or cards to veterans thanking them for their service.

- How does your family or community observe Veterans Day?
- Does your family or community have any Veterans Day traditions?
- Do any of those traditions make you think about the sacrifices people have made for the United States?







Veterans attend the Veterans Day Observation in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



Slide Text Screenshot

5 Who Serves?

- Veterans are men and women who have served in the military.
- There are six main U.S. military branches.

Note: There are no captions for the seals of the different Service Branches.



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- Veterans have served "on active duty." This means they were in the military for their job full time.
- The branches are Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.

- Who can serve in the military?
 - o Anyone who meets age and mental and physical fitness requirements
 - o Each branch has specific requirements, which are linked below.
- Have women always been able to serve?
 - No, but women have always supported military service in different ways, including working as cooks, spies, or nurses.
 - Some women even disguised themselves as men in order to fight!
 - Women first officially enlisted in the military during World War I (Navy Yeoman F) and WAC (WWII) and during World War II more opportunities for service opened up. Women had also served as nurses.
 - Eventually, women became part of the regular military and the roles in which they are able to serve have expanded.
- Have racial minorities always been able to serve?
 - o No. Sometimes they were:
 - barred from service (for example, African Americans couldn't serve at the beginning of the Civil War)
 - subject to quotas (the number who could serve was limited),
 - barred from specific types of jobs (for example, at the start of World War II, African Americans weren't allowed to be pilots)
 - required to serve in racially segregated units







Army Requirements: https://www.goarmy.com/learn/army-requirements-and-qualifications.html

Navy Requirements: https://www.navy.com/joining-navy-if-you-havent-served

Marine Corps Requirements: https://www.marines.com/becoming-a-marine/overview.html

Air Force Requirements: https://www.airforce.com/how-to-join/prepare-for-success/meet-requirements

Space Force Requirements: https://www.airforce.com/spaceforce

Coast Guard Requirements: https://www.gocoastguard.com/faq/what-are-the-qualifications-to-join-the-coast-guard

Slide Text Screenshot

6 U.S Military Branches

Army:

- Largest and oldest branch
- Provide ground forces

Navy:

Protection on the sea

Marine Corps:

• Fast sea and land deployment

Air Force:

• Provide air power and support

Space:

- Newest branch
- Protect American interests in space

Coast Guard:

• Guard American harbors and coast

Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- What are the main U.S military branches?
 - o Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard
- How are they different from each other?
 - The Army provides ground forces: soldiers fight on land using armor (such as tanks),
 artillery, helicopters, etc. It's also the largest and oldest military branch.
 - The Navy operates on oceans and seas with ships of different sizes and submarines under water. Even during peacetime, it operates around the world to maintain and protect U.S. interests.
 - The Marine Corps operates under the Department of the Navy, but is a separate organization. The Marines provide forces that can move quickly on land, sea or in the air. Their specialty is to assault, capture and control beachheads. To be self-sufficient in combat operations, the Marine Corps has its own air power.
 - The Air Force provides support in the air. It uses fighter aircraft, tanker aircraft, bomber aircraft, transport aircraft, helicopters and drones. It can deliver forces anywhere in the world within hours. Before 1947, it was part of the Army.
 - The Space Force was formed in 2019 to protect American interests in space and provide space capabilities to the other service branches. It operates under the Department of the Air Force.
 - The Coast Guard stays close to the United States and keeps its ports and shorelines safe. It provides maritime safety and environmental support. During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In a war, it could become part of the Navy.
- How are the branches similar?
 - There's overlap in the technology and transportation that different branches use. For instance, in addition to sailors and ships, the Navy also has pilots that fly planes from











- large ships. The Army also has airplanes, helicopters, and pilots. The Navy and the Coast Guard both have ships, etc.
- They work together to keep the United States safe from countries, organizations, and people that might want to harm it.

Military personnel train in a variety of circumstances and locations. (Photos from U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, 2015, 2019 and 2020)



Slide Text Screenshot

7

Why November 11?

- World War I was originally called the "World War" or "The Great War."
- At the time, it was the largest war ever fought.
- On November 11, 1918 at 11:00 a.m., the fighting stopped, and the Armistice started.

WHY NOVEMBER 11? World War I was originally called the "World War" or "The Great War." At the time, it was the largest war ever fought. On November 11, 1918 at 11:00 a.m., the fighting stopped, and the Armistice started.

Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- When it happened between 1914 and 1918, World War I was the largest war that had ever been fought.
- There were more countries and people involved than in any previous conflict.
- In the autumn of 1918, the warring countries agreed to stop fighting. On November 11, 1918 at 11:00 a.m. (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), the guns of World War I fell silent. Neither side had surrendered. Instead the war ended with an armistice: an agreement to stop fighting.

Note about the photographs used on this slide: These images all show ways that World War I was different from other wars. Much of the fighting was done by soldiers positioned in trenches and using new technology. Women were able to serve in limited ways in the Navy and Marine Corps; they also supported the military from outside of its ranks. Racially segregated units, such as the all-African American 369th Infantry (nicknamed the "Harlem Hellfighters," pictured) faced racism but served



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honorably in France. Airplanes, which would be so important in World War II, began to be widely used in combat.

Caption:

World War I witnessed many changes in technology, fighting, and military participation. (LOC and NARA, ca. 1917-1921)



Slide Text Screenshot

Honoring Unknown Soldiers 8

- After World War I, people wanted to honor those who died in the war but whose bodies couldn't be identified.
- In 1921, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was built at Arlington National Cemetery.
- One Unknown Soldier from WWI was buried in the grave on November 11, 1921.
- He represents every unknown service member.

HONORING UNKNOWN SOLDIERS



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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

- Reasons that bodies couldn't be identified included: lost identification discs (which were like "dog tags"), a lack of identifying objects, disfigurement, etc. Also, technologies such as DNA identification did not yet exist.
- The Tomb was a way to honor unidentified soldiers whose bodies remained in Europe and whose families wouldn't be able to visit their gravesites.
- Before World War I, monuments to unknown soldiers often had more than one body buried there. By World War I, people thought it was important that each person have his or her own grave whenever possible.
- The Unknown represents every unknown service member who died in the conflict. The monument offered a place for families who lost a loved one whose body was never recovered to grieve.



In 1927, mourners place wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)



Slide Text Screenshot

9 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

- Later, three graves were added to honor unknown soldiers from other wars.
- "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."
- Located at Arlington National Cemetery
- Guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, rain or shine, for over 80 years

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

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Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Teacher note: Details about the other three Unknown Soldiers are provided for those who will not be completing the full "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" lesson.

- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is the final resting place for three American service members: one each from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. After World War II (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953), an Unknown Soldier from each conflict were buried in crypts to the left and the right of the Tomb. The center crypt held a service member from the Vietnam War (1958-1975) for 14 years. In 1998, his body was exhumed, identified and reburied in Missouri at his family's request. The center crypt is now empty and dedicated to all missing service members from the Vietnam War.
- The Tomb is inscribed with the words "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God." No one knows the names of the people buried there. When they died, no one could identify them, so they couldn't be buried near their families. This used to happen to a lot of soldiers but with advances in technology we're now able to identify the remains of those who die in war.
- The Tomb is in Arlington National Cemetery, which is in Virginia right outside of Washington, D.C.
- The Tomb is guarded every minute of every day by elite soldiers who volunteered and trained for this special duty.

- How do you know that the Tomb is a special place?
 - o It's guarded all of the time. The guards are chosen specially for the job and work hard in order to show respect for the Tomb and other soldiers.
- Why are there wreaths in the picture?





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 Flowers are often used to decorate graves. The wreaths at the Tomb are laid by school groups, veterans' groups, foreign dignitaries and even the president of the United States.

Caption:

Soldiers guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier no matter the weather. Wreath-laying ceremonies are common. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



Slide

10

Text

Remembering November 11

 Other countries also recognize their veterans on November 11. In Canada, Australia and Great Britain, the holiday is called "Remembrance Day."

Screenshot REMEMBERING NOVEMBER 11



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

November 11 is an important date for other countries that fought in World War I. Different countries observe the holiday in different ways. In the British Commonwealth (especially Great Britain, Canada, Australia), red poppies are often worn and used in Remembrance Day ceremonies or decorations. The significance of the red poppies comes from a famous poem about World War I, "In Flanders Field," by Canadian John McCrae. (Americans also use poppies in their ceremonies, though they are not as common in the U.S. as in Commonwealth countries.)

The text to the poem can be found here: https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47380/in-flanders-fields

Caption:

A government official in Australia lays a wreath at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park in Perth, Australia in 2011. (Public Domain)









A Remembrance Day banner in Cairns, Australia. (Unsplash, 2019)

Remembrance crosses in a town in England. (Unsplash)



Slide Text

11 National Holidays

- National holidays give people a chance to honor others and to think about what it means to be an American
- What other American holidays do you observe?

Screenshot



NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

- National holidays give people a chance to honor others and to think about what it means to be an
- What other American holidays do you observe?

Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Answers may include: Independence Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, etc. While there are other state and federal holidays, only a few of them focus on what it means to be an American.

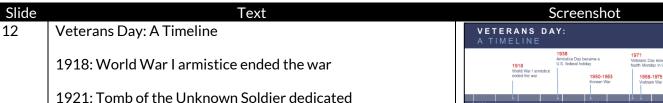
Caption:

Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day 2018. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)









1938: Armistice Day became a U.S. federal holiday

1939-1945: World War II

1950-1953: Korean War

1954: Armistice Day renamed Veterans Day

1971: Veterans Day moved to the fourth Monday in October

1958-1975: Vietnam War

1978: Veterans Day moved back to November 11



Teacher Guide: Notes for Lecture and Discussion

Optional: You can use this timeline to review the history of Veterans Day in the context of any events you may have studied in American history this year.

Additional information about Timeline events:

- In 1971, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October to create a 3-day weekend. However, this caused confusion as some state and local governments continued observing Veterans Day on November 11.
- In 1978, Veterans Day was moved back to November 11 because of the date's historical significance.

- What stands out to you on this timeline?
 - Answers may include: how soon after World War I Armistice Day became a national holiday, how it was observed in October for only 7 years, etc.
- Some holidays, such as Labor Day and Memorial Day, are always held on a specific Monday. Why isn't Veterans Day still observed on a specific Monday? Don't people like 3-day weekends?
 - Answers may include: November 11 is an historic date.







Sources:

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Images:

Slide 1: Elizabeth Fraser, National Veterans Day Observance 2019, November 11, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49051149558/in/album-72157711744292183/

Slide 2: Marjory Collins, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Armistice Day Parade, November 1942, Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8d23381/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, National Veterans Day Observance 2019, November 11, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49051654116/in/album-72157711744292183/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, National Veterans Day Observance 2019, November 11, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49051657396/in/album-72157711744292183/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, National Veterans Day Observance 2019, November 11, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49051652501/in/album-72157711744292183/

Slide 3: Elizabeth Fraser, National Veterans Day Observance 2019, November 11, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49051865532/in/album-72157711744292183/

Slide 4: Elizabeth Fraser, National Veterans Day Observance 2019, November 11, 2019, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/49051150508/in/album-72157711744292183/

Slide 6: Emerson Nuñez, F-15E Strike Eagles Prepare to Receive Fuel, March 5, 2020, U.S. Air Force. https://www.af.mil/News/Photos.aspx?igphoto=2002264420

Slide 6: Unknown, Schofield Barracks East Range, Hawaii, Marcy 7, 2020, U.S. Department of Defense. https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002263037/

Slide 6: Cody Beam, In Formation, Philippine Sea, March 4, 2020, U.S. Department of Defense. https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002264003/

Slide 6: Jacob Wilson, 200309-M-TL103-0009, March 4, 2020, U.S. Marine Corps. https://www.marines.mil/Photos/?igphoto=2002262666





Slide 6: Colton Brownlee, 191120-M-ET234-1126, November 20, 2019, U.S. Marine Corps. https://www.marines.mil/Photos/igcategory/Combat/?igphoto=2002217165

Slide 6: Ross Ruddell, James Boston Bound- Division: East -Seed: 5, August 3, 2015, U.S. Coast Guard. https://www.flickr.com/photos/coast_guard/25834522826/in/album-72157665813199041/

Slide 6: Unknown, AEHF-6 Launch, March 26, 2020, U.S. Space Force. https://www.spaceforce.mil/Connect-With-Us/Photos?igphoto=2002290843

Slide 7: Keystone View Co., "Over the Top" -American Soldiers Answering the Bugle Call to "Charge," ca. March 25, 1918, Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b22390/

Slide 7: Unknown, Navy Girls on Review, National Photo Company Collection, ca. 1917-1919, Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/item/96501196/

Slide 7: Paul Thompson, 369th Infantry troops arrive at Hoboken, New Jersey, ca. 1918, Library of Congress. https://catalog.archives.gov/id/533528

Slide 7: Unknown, Pilot Standing in Front of U.S. Army Airplane During World War I, ca. 1918, Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b45115/

Slide 8: Harris & Ewing, Gold Star Mothers at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, May 30, 1927, Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/item/2016888399/

Slide 9: Elizabeth Fraser, Fall Foliage 2018, November 2, 2018, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/30793532357/in/album-72157674220937287/

Slide 10: Gnangarra. Remembrance Day service November 11, 2011 Kings Park, Western Australia. Malcolm McCusker laying a wreath, November 11, 2011, Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:11 Nov gnangarra-9.jpg

Slide 10: Diana Parkhouse, Remembrance Crosses in My Town in England, undated, Unsplash.com. https://unsplash.com/photos/9RG T3As8ro

Slide 10: David Clode, Remembrance Day Banner in Cairns, November 11, 2019, Unsplash.com. https://unsplash.com/photos/LrkkU5z3j6w

Slide 11: Elizabeth Fraser, Veterans Day Observance 2018, November 11, 2018, Arlington National Cemetery. https://www.flickr.com/photos/arlingtonnatl/44921793875/in/album-72157701973212471/