

# LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GENERALS!

**Learning Objectives:** The students will

1. Understand achievements of key generals in U.S. history.
2. Evaluate the effect of the selected generals on American history.

**TEKS/TAKS:** 8.4B &C; 8.5F; 8.8A &B; US3.A &C; US3.B &C; US24.B-D; US25D

**Materials Needed:** One copy of the research sheet for each student; access to the Internet

**Teaching Strategy:**

1. Explain the origin of Veterans Day by relaying the following information to the students:

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial services were all timed to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. This was to symbolize the end of World War I which had occurred at 11:00 a.m., November 11, 1918. From that point on, November 11 was known as Armistice Day. In 1938, Armistice Day became a national holiday. On June 2, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

2. In honor of Veterans Day, explain that they are going to research important American generals from the Revolution to the present. Assign each student a general from the list that is on top of the research sheet. There are twenty on the list, so some students may be assigned the same general.
3. On Veterans Day or a day close to November 11, the students should bring their research to class for a reception honoring the great generals in American history. On the assigned day, explain to the students that they will be role-playing their general.
4. Arrange the room in a circle and have the "generals" sit around the room. In a 1-to-2 minute presentation, have each student introduce himself or herself as the general and share the following information about him or her:
  - a. Name
  - b. Most interesting fact about early life
  - c. War(s) in which the general served
  - d. Three major accomplishments
  - e. Impact of the general and the war on American history
  - f. Life after his/her military service

If students have the same general, they should meet beforehand to share information and present together to the class. After all of the generals have been introduced, have each student select his/her top three generals based on accomplishments and impact on American history. This should require that they take notes on the presentations. Each student should be able to defend his/her choices with adequate reasoning. Lead the students in an attempt to arrive at the class consensus of the top three for the class.

## *Let's Hear It for the Generals*

Directions: Research the general assigned to you and locate the following information.

Generals:

1. George Washington
2. Nathanael Greene
3. Francis Marion
4. John Paul Jones
5. Andrew Jackson
6. William T. Sherman
7. Ulysses S. Grant
8. Nathan Bedford Forest
9. Robert E. Lee
10. Stonewall Jackson
11. John Pershing
12. Douglas MacArthur
13. George Marshall
14. George Patton
15. Dwight D. Eisenhower
16. Omar Bradley
17. Colin Powell
18. Norman Schwarzkopf
19. David Petraeus
20. Anna Mae Hays

Research Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date and location of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Three interesting facts about early life/background:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Military Service:

War for which most known: \_\_\_\_\_ Date- \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of the war:

Outcome of war:

Accomplishments (a minimum of three):

Impact of war on American history:

Life after the military:

Sources (more than two required):