

## CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

Learning Objective(s): The students will:

1. Understand the significance of Veterans Day.
2. Become familiar with veterans in their own families.
3. Develop an appreciation for the contributions and sacrifices veterans have made for our country.

TEKS: SS K.1, K.15A, 1.2A, 1.13D, 1.17A, 1.18B, 2.14, 2.17A, 2.18

Materials Needed: Construction paper, crayons, copies of Veteran's Survey Sheet (optional)

Vocabulary: Holiday, honor, military, veteran

Teaching Strategy:

1. Tell students that there are two holidays when Americans honor men and women who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. One holiday is named Memorial Day and honors people in the military who have died while serving and protecting our country. The other holiday is called Veterans Day. A veteran is someone who has served in the armed forces and is still alive today. On Veterans Day Americans honor and thank veterans for serving in the armed forces during times of war and peace.
2. Explain to students that Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th each year. That date was chosen for the holiday because World War I ended on November 11, 1918.
3. Discuss the following questions with students:
  - Why do you think our country has armed forces such as the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard?
  - What might happen if the United States had no armed forces?
  - Do you think our country should have a special holiday to honor men and women who serve in the armed forces? Why or why not?
  - President George W. Bush said that a veteran's service represents the highest form of citizenship. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
  - Do any of you have family members who are veterans and have served in the armed forces and are still living? Who are they?

4. Tell students that Veterans Day is a perfect day to show men and women who have served in the military how much we appreciate their willingness to risk their lives to protect America. Explain that students are going to create thank you cards, which will be given to veterans in the community.
5. Using construction paper and crayons or markers, have students create Happy Veterans Day cards. Other options include writing thank you letters or creating cards using a computer software program. (For information concerning local veterans' names etc, teachers should contact their local American Legion or Veterans of the Foreign War. Every county in Texas has a Veterans Service Officer. Texas educators can find the name of their county's Veterans Service Officer from the county clerk.)
6. Completed Veterans Day cards may be sent to the appropriate veterans' organizations or presented in a more formal situation after asking a veteran or several veterans to :
  - Explain the significance of the American flag, flag etiquette, and then lead students in a flag raising ceremony in front of the school.
  - Speak about the importance of patriotism.
  - Explain the significance of the red poppy as a symbol of Veterans Day and share some of their military experiences with the class. After the presentation is completed, the teacher may want to show children how to make a poppy from tissue paper, crepe paper, or construction paper.

Evaluation:

Have students create a poster by completing the following stem sentence: "Veterans Day is important because ..." Students may also use original illustrations.

Extension for the Gifted/Talented: Give each student in the class a Veteran's Survey. Tell students to interview a member of their family to find out if there are any veterans in their family. The names of any veterans should be recorded on the survey, and the survey should be returned to the teacher. When all surveys have been returned, the gifted/talented students should design and complete a bulletin board to honor the veterans represented by the families in their classroom. They may also graph the statistical results of the surveys, if desired.

