

CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

Learning Objective(s): The student will

- A. Understand the origins of Veterans Day
- B. Create a Veterans Day project

TEKS: US.2D; US.25A

Materials Needed: Copies of the Project Assignment Sheet for each student; access to the Internet for research

Teaching Strategy:

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

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 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th 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. Have the students select one of the wars in which U.S. soldiers have participated. These can include Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, or the War in Iraq. Explain that they will be completing a project to honor the veterans of that war in which they will analyze different genres in which the soldiers have been portrayed. They should locate a piece from at least four different genres from the list below:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Music | 9. Essays |
| 2. Paintings | 10. Newspaper Articles |
| 3. Photos | 11. Personal Journals |
| 4. Political cartoons | 12. Letters |
| 5. Propaganda Posters | 13. Novels |
| 6. Movies | |
| 7. Short Stories | |
| 8. Poetry | |

Analyze each piece by including the following four items:

- A summary of the background of the piece and its creator
- A summary or description of the piece
- An explanation of what it says about the soldier and/or the war (point of view)
- A personal reaction or evaluation of the piece

Let the students select an appropriate format to display the selections and the analysis.

Celebrating Veterans Day Project

Select one of the wars in which U.S. soldiers have participated. These can include Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, or the War in Iraq. You then will be completing a project to honor the veterans of that war in which you will analyze different genres in which the soldiers have been portrayed. Locate a piece from at least four different genres from the list below:

1. Music
2. Paintings
3. Photos
4. Political cartoons
5. Propaganda Posters
6. Movies
7. Short Stories
8. Poetry
9. Essays
10. Newspaper Articles
11. Personal Journals
12. Letters
13. Novels

Analyze each piece by including the following four items:

- A summary of the background of the piece and its creator
- A summary or description of the piece
- An explanation of what it says about the soldier and/or the war (point of view)
- A personal reaction or evaluation of the piece

Select an appropriate format to display the selections and the analysis.