



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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HVL LESSON TITLE:

VETERANS DAY vs MEMORIAL DAY

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GUIDING QUESTION:

What is the difference between
Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

OVERVIEW:

Although Veterans Day and Memorial Day are both national holidays set aside to celebrate veterans, there is a difference in the day's meanings. This lesson will teach students the history of these two holidays as well as the difference between the days.



SUBJECT(S):
Any Subject



VETERAN(S):
Any Veteran



DURATION:
50 minutes

VETERANS vs MEMORIAL DAY

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

“I had never seen such a mess in my life. I had to pull bodies out of the water. One that gets me so bad that I will never forget. I grabbed him by the hair and I reached over to grab his arm and meat came right off the bone. I’ll never forget that.”

WWII Veteran Sherwin Callander

OVERVIEW:

Although Veterans Day and Memorial Day are both national holidays set aside to celebrate veterans, there is a difference in the day’s meanings. This lesson will teach students the history of these two holidays as well as the difference between the days.

OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Understand the difference between Veterans and Memorial Day
- Will create an event for either Veterans or Memorial Day.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Veterans Day began as Armistice Day in 1919 to commemorate the end of World War I on November 11, 1918, becoming a national holiday in 1938.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is observed on the last Monday of May to honor and mourn the military personnel who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Its origins trace back to the aftermath of the Civil War, with various communities claiming to have held the first observances

STANDARDS:

AL: 11: 6

Trace the progression of events and policies leading to World War II and the United States’ entry into the war.

AL: 11: 7

Analyze how United States military involvement shaped major events of World War II.

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[HVL Video of Choice](#)

Focus Handout (Doc A)

[Veterans vs Memorial Video Link](#)

Event Planning Activity Directions (Doc B)

Event Planning Form(Doc C)



PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Distribute the Focus Handout (Doc A) and instruct students that they will be answering the questions as they watch a video.
- Show any a video of your choice from the [HVL YouTube Channel](#).
- After the video, discuss students' responses on the Focus Handout (Doc A).

ACTIVITY 02

- Inform students that two federal holidays have been set aside to celebrate veterans. Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day in November. Tell them that there is a distinct difference between the two days.
- Show the [Veterans vs Memorial Day](#) clip.
- After the video, review the difference between the two days with the students.

ACTIVITY 03

- Distribute the Event Planning Activity Directions (Doc B). Ask students to follow along as the teacher reads the directions aloud.
- Divide students into groups of 3-4, using a method of the teacher's choice. Give them 5 minutes to determine the role of students in their group.
- Distribute one Event Planning Form (Doc C) to each group. Give the class 30 minutes to plan their event.
- Students can present their event ideas to the class at the end of the class period or the following day.

METHOD FOR EXTENSION

- Invite professional/local event planners or veterans groups to the classroom for students to present their event idea project for feedback. This is a good way to practice public speaking and presentation skills.

VETERANS VS MEMORIAL

FOCUS HANDOUT



Summarize the veteran(s) story.

What stood out to you the most about his/her story?

How would you honor this veteran?

VETERANS VS MEMORIAL

EVENT PLANNING DIRECTIONS

DOC B



DIRECTIONS:

You work at an Event Planning Business. You and your colleagues have been tasked with planning a community event for either Memorial Day or Veterans Day. Use the guidelines below to plan your event.

Event Planning Staff:

Your staff should include a person to serve as event manager, head of media relations and public relations, event operations, and secretary/budgets.

Your Event Should Include:

1. A Formal Veteran Recognition Ceremony
2. Entertainment
3. Invitations, posters, and/ or social media posts (at least 3 different ideas)
4. Activities or fundraising component (this will include food availability)
5. A budget

VETERANS VS MEMORIAL EVENT PLANNING FORM

**STAFF:**

Event Planner: _____

Media: _____

Event Operations: _____

Secretary: _____

EVENT TITLE: _____

PURPOSE OF EVENT: _____

EVENT AGENDA: This should include activities, entertainment, times, dates, cost (budget). Be sure to list every detail. Use extra paper if needed as this should be DETAILED.

Media and PR: List your media relations and PR ideas. You will need to attach your social media posts (at least 3) as well as your poster design.