FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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HVL LESSON TITLE:

ONE WORD, ONE VETERAN

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

ONE WORD, ONE VETERAN

GUIDING QUESTION:

What words describe veterans?

OVERVIEW:

This project allows students to associate words with veterans' stories, culminating in a Honor Wall project. This lesson can be implemented as one lesson or multiple lessons. It is an ideal lesson leading up to Veterans Day.



SUBJECT(S):
General Lesson



Veterans
All Veterans



DURATION:
1 Week Project or
I Day

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"And we served. And we served honorably. You know the old saying, 'All Gave Some, Some Gave All.' And those that gave all, made the ultimate sacrifice."

Vietnam Veteran Tom Mckinney

OVERVIEW:

This project allows students to associate words with veterans' stories, culminating in a Honor Wall project. This lesson can be implemented as one lesson or multiple lessons. It is an ideal lesson leading up to Veterans Day.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Throughout American history, men and women have served in the United States Armed Forces to defend the nation, protect its interests, and support its allies. From the American Revolution to modern military operations, service members have played an important role in shaping the country's history. Their experiences reflect not only the challenges of war but also the values of duty, courage, sacrifice, and service.

American veterans have served in many different roles throughout history. While some experienced combat on the front lines, others served as nurses, medics, pilots, mechanics, communications specialists, engineers, and logistics personnel. Their contributions demonstrate that military service involves many different responsibilities, each essential to supporting the nation's armed forces.

OBJECTIVES:

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

- Students will associated words with veterans' service.
- Students will become acquanited with primary sources through veterans' stories.

STANDARDS:

Students learn about the history and significant of Veterans Day, alongside American symbols, monuments, and civic responsibilities.

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

HVL Youtube Channel
Poster Directions (Doc A)
Rubric (Doc B)
Construction Paper
Art supplies

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Before starting the lesson, teachers should access the HVL YouTube Channel to view a variety of veteran videos. Choose one for a lesson or a series of videos for a project. **NOTE:** Classrooms with computer access, can have students pick their own video/videos to watch.
- While students watch a video(es), they should write down words that describe the veteran in the video. Example words: sacrifice, duty, honor, dedication, patriotism, etc.
- Distribute Poster Directions (Doc A). Read the directions aloud as students follow along.
- After the lesson(s), create a Veterans' Wall in the hallway from the posters.
- Teachers should refer to the Rubric (Doc B) if they choose to grade the poster(s).

METHOD FOR EXTENSION

- Turn the project into a school-wide event, displaying the Veterans' Wall leading into the location of the school's Veterans' Assembly.

ONE WORD, ONE VETERAN
POSTER DIRECTIONS

DOC A

DIRECTIONS: Students will create a poster honoring a veteran through one meaningful word that represents the veteran's service, character, or experiences. Words might include courage, sacrifice, dedication, resilience, honor, commitment, or service.

The poster should feature the selected word prominently, identify a real veteran, and explain how the veteran's story connects to that word.

Poster Requirements
Students should include:
1. One meaningful word displayed prominently on the poster.
2. A veteran's name and branch of military service, if known.
3. At least three facts about the veteran's military service or experiences.
4. A written explanation of why the chosen word represents the veteran.
5. Visual elements, such as drawings, photographs, symbols, or illustrations.

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RUBRIC

DOC B

Student Name: _____

Selected Word: _____

Criteria	Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Word Selection 20 pts	Word is meaningful and strongly connects to the veteran's story. 20 pts	Word is appropriate but connection could be stronger. 15 pts	Word has little or no clear connection to the veteran. 10 pts
Veteran Facts 25 pts	Includes accurate identification and three or more meaningful facts. 25 pts	Includes identification and two relevant facts. 20 pts	Includes limited or inaccurate information. 10 pts
Written Explanation 25 pts	Clearly and thoughtfully explains how the word represents the veteran, using specific examples. 25 pts	Explains the connection with some supporting details. 20 pts	Explanation is unclear or lacks supporting details. 10 pts
Creativity and Visual Appeal 15 pts	Poster is visually engaging, original, and supports the theme. 15 pts	Poster is organized and includes appropriate visuals. 10 pts	Poster lacks organization or meaningful visuals. 5 pts
Effort and Organization 15 pts	Work is neat, complete, and easy to read. 15 pts	Mostly complete, with minor errors or missing details. 10 pts	Incomplete and difficult to read. 5 pts

Total Points:_____