FOR MORE INFORMATION:
info@honoringveteranlegacies.org

HVL LESSON TITLE:

BEHIND THE UNIFORM

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

BEHIND THE UNIFORM

GUIDING QUESTION:

What can we learn from our veterans?

OVERVIEW:

This lesson will allow students to examine a veteran's experience in order to reflect on honor and sacrifice. Perfect for a Veterans Day lesson, students will also learn proper ways to interview veterans.



SUBJECT(S):
Any



VETERAN(S):
Any



DURATION:
50 Minutes

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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 lesson will allow students to examine a veteran's experience in order to reflect on honor and sacrifice. Perfect for a Veterans Day lesson, students will also learn proper ways to honor veterans in their community.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

World War I officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, but fighting had ceased months earlier when an armistice went into effect on November 11, 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

November 11 became known as Armistice Day and originally commemorated veterans of World War I.

Following World War II and the Korean War, the holiday was broadened to recognize American veterans of all wars. In 1954, the name was officially changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

OBJECTIVES:

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

- Examine a veteran's experience using a primary or secondary source.
- Reflect on the meaning of service and sacrifice.
- Identify appropriate ways to honor veterans in their community.

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MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

LINK TO HVL VIDEO GALLERY
Veteran Video Questions (Doc A)
Interviewing a Veteran (Doc B)
Exit Slip (Doc C)

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Write the word VETERAN where students can see it. Ask students what comes to mind when they see or hear the word veteran? Discuss their responses.
- Inform students of the real definition of a veteran: A veteran is a person who has served in the military. Discuss how veterans represent many different generations, backgrounds, military branches, occupations, conflicts, and experiences.

ACTIVITY 02

- Choose one of the veteran videos from the HVL Video Gallery.
- Distribute the Veteran Video Questions (Doc A). Instruct students to answer the questions as they watch the video/or immediately after the video. **NOTE:** Teachers may show more than one video and have students compare and contrast stories from different wars.

ACTIVITY 03

- Distribute Interviewing a Veteran (Doc B). Inform students to imagine that they have been assigned to interview the veteran in the video (or choose from the collection shown.) They will come up with 10 questions to ask the veteran that will dig deeper into the veteran's experience.
- When students are finished, discuss the quesitions; if need be direct students what is proper and not proper to ask veterans about their service.

ACTIVITY 04

- Distribute the Exit Slip (Doc C). Students will complete and turn in before leaving class.

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VETERAN VIDEO QUESTIONS

DOC A

Who is this veteran?

When and where did the veteran serve?

What was the veteran's job or responsibility?

What challenges did the veteran experience?

What sacrifices did the veteran or the veteran's family make?

What does this story teach us about military service?

What part of the veteran's story would you want future generations to remember?

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INTERVIEWING A VETERAN

DOC B

DIRECTIONS: Using the space below, write 10 questions that you would ask the veteran from the video(s). To better understand what is proper and not proper to ask veterans, refer to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Question One:

Question Two:

Question Three:

Question Four:

Question Five:

Question Six:

Question Seven:

Question Eight:

Question Nine:

Question Ten:

Analysis Questions:

1. How did active listening while watching the veteran video help you develop your additional questions?

2. What can you learn about history through veteran interviews?

3. What can you learn about sacrifice and service through veteran interviews?

BEHIND THE UNIFORM

EXIT SLIP

DOC C

If veterans' stories are not recorded and shared, what might future generations lose?