

Discover America

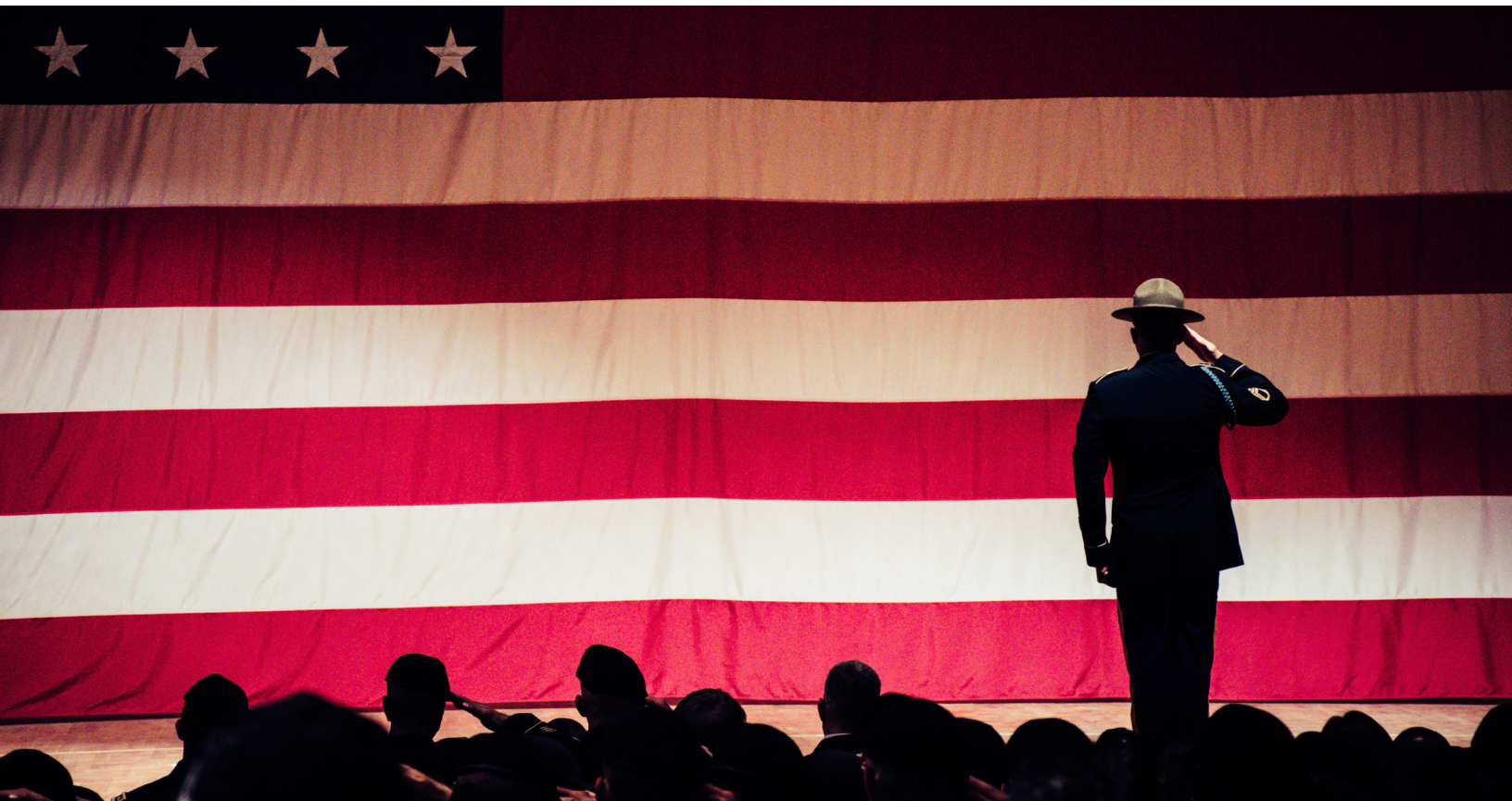
Course 11 - Teacher Guide



Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand the importance of thanking Soldiers and Veterans
- Understand what it means to sacrifice
- Understand the history of wars the USA has fought in



Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Economy** - the system of goods and services produced in a place
- 02 **Audie Murphy** - known as "America's most decorated soldier" for his service during WWII
- 03 **Doris Miller** - recognized with the Navy Cross for her service aboard the USS West Virginia during the attack on Pearl Harbor
- 04 **Military** – people in the 6 branches of the armed forces
- 05 **World War II** – the war between the Axis and the Allies, beginning in 1939 until 1945
- 06 **Nuclear Weapons** – incredibly powerful explosive devices
- 07 **Infantry** – military soldiers that fight on foot, usually carrying weapons
- 08 **Sharecropper** – someone who uses a portion of their crops to pay for goods and services

Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

Introduction

In this course, we will learn about Our American Heroes! America has a rich history of honoring those who sacrifice for our freedom on special days throughout our year.

TELL Students

The significance of the Second World War, particularly for America, is hard to overstate. America entered that world-wide war a debtor nation whose economy was still struggling to recover from the Great Depression, with a third rate military whose ability to defend our nation was at best questionable. America came out of that war a creditor nation to the entire world, with global responsibilities and interests heretofore undreamt of, with an undamaged economy that clearly dominated all others, and a military that made it the world's only nuclear armed Super power. Americans fought in places most could not find on a map prior to this war, which was fought over vast reaches of our Earth on virtually every continent and ocean, and in the skies above them all.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty:
Episode 11, Our American Heroes
World War II

Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

World War II

TELL Students

The greatest weapon in any war is the soldier, and America's military services increased in less than four years from 1.4 million in 1941, to more than 15 million by 1945. The vast majority of soldiers were under the age of 26.

The potential of new scientific discoveries exploded during World War II, many of which are still with us today. Radar, electronic computers, mass construction and production techniques, weather prediction, aircraft capable of spanning oceans without stopping including jet powered aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles including television guidance, remote sensing technologies, rockets capable of reaching outside Earth's atmosphere and potentially probing outer space, nuclear weapons capable of destroying entire cities with a single bomb – all trace their origins to the pressures of prevailing in a world-wide war.

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Lesson Guide

Audie Murphy

TELL Students

"America's most decorated soldier", Audie Murphy occupies a unique place among those millions who volunteered to defend our nation in WW2. His story is a true "rags to riches" story and a memorable example of those whom we respectfully call "our Greatest Generation." Audy came from desperately poor beginnings, the son of an east Texas sharecropper who fathered 7 children and eventually abandoned his family, forcing Audy to leave school in the 5th grade in order to support brothers and sisters by picking cotton for \$1 a day and hunting small game to help feed them.

His mother died when he was 16 shortly before the United States was forced into WW2 by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Initially rejected from joining our Army because he was too young, his sister helped him back date his birth date by one year so he could join. He served in combat as an Infantryman in the 3rd Infantry Division, starting with the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and fighting the Nazis and Italians all the way up the Italian peninsula for over a year. He earned every award for valor in combat that America could bestow.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty - [Audie Murphy](#)

Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

Lesson Guide

Doris Miller

TELL Students

Born in Waco, Texas, Doris (Dorie) Miller occupies a unique place among those who sacrificed their lives for our nation in WW2. After working on his family's farm, dropping out of school in the 8th Grade, and unsuccessfully applying for FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps, Miller enlisted in the United States Navy in 1939. After training in secondary battery gunnery school aboard the USS Nevada, she returned to the USS West Virginia and was serving aboard her when she was attacked and sunk by 7 torpedoes from Japanese torpedo bombers during their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. During the attack, he helped several sailors who were wounded.

While subsequently manning an anti-aircraft .50 caliber machine gun aft of the ship's conning tower for which he had no training, he was officially credited with shooting down two attacking Japanese planes. On May 27, Miller was personally recognized with the Navy Cross (the second highest Navy award for valor in combat after the Medal of Honor) by fellow Texan Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV-6) at anchor in Pearl Harbor.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty - [Doris Miller](#)

Our American Heroes - 5th Grade Assessment

1. What is the greatest weapon in any war?

- a. The boat
- b. The tank
- c. The plane
- d. The soldier

2. The vast majority of those that served the USA in WWII were under what age?

- a. 18
- b. 26
- c. 31
- d. 35

3. What is Audie Murphy's nickname?

- a. The toughest man alive
- b. America's most decorated soldier
- c. Our favorite hero
- d. The best of the best

4. Where was Doris Miller during the Attack on Pearl Harbor?

- a. On a boat that had been hit by 7 torpedos
- b. Carrying wounded to shelter
- c. Firing an anti-aircraft gun
- d. All of the above

Our American Heroes - 5th Grade Assessment Key

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