

Discover America

Course 11 - Teacher Guide



Table of **Contents**

3	Themes + Values
4	Learning Objectives
5	Key Terms
6	Introduction
7	Lesson
12	Biography Activity
13	Resources
14	Notes

1st Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Sacrifice
- Honor
- Bravery

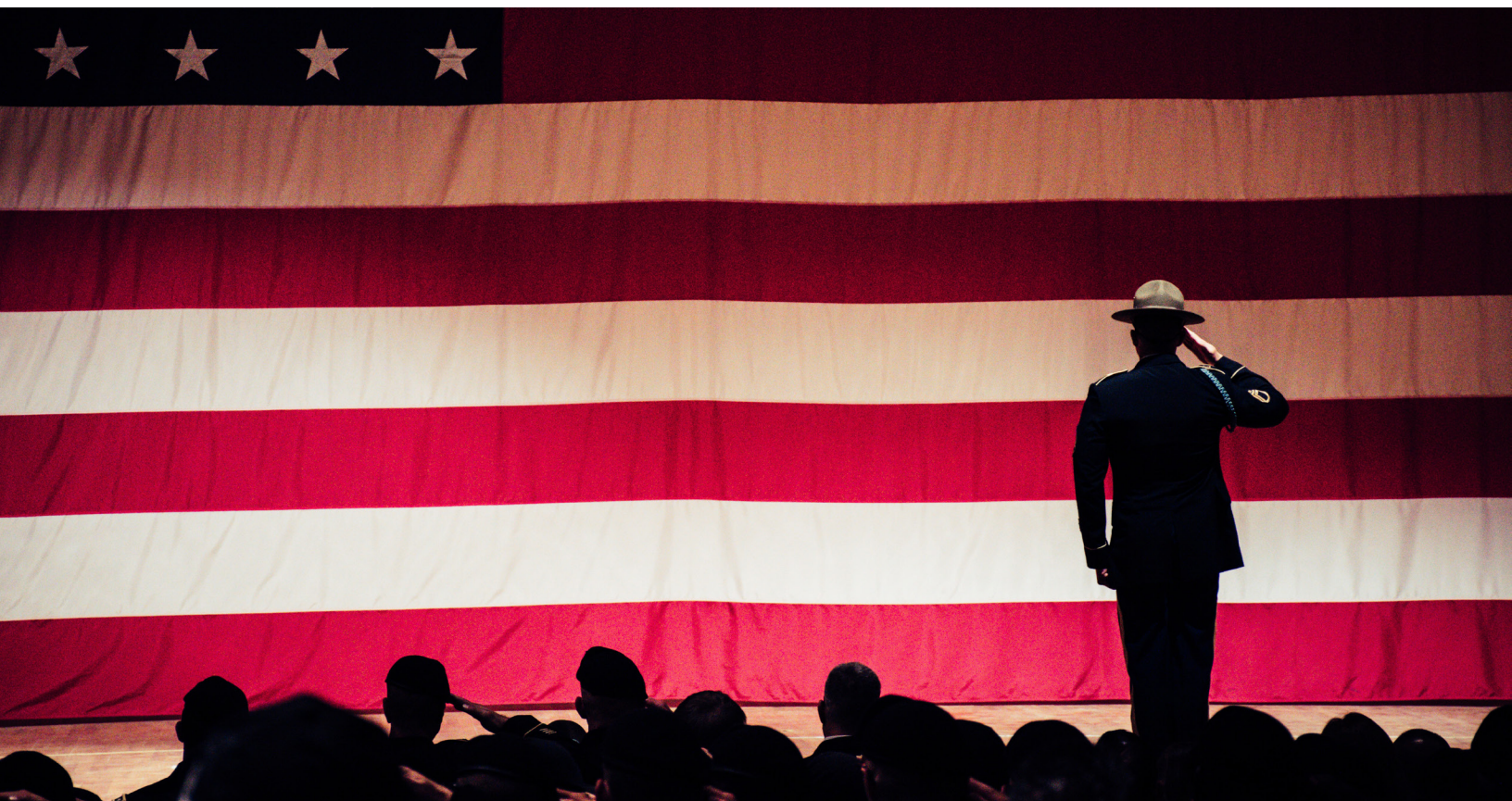
Core Values

- Community
- Liberty
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify two or more national holidays dedicated to honoring military heroes.
- Identify three or more branches of the United States military.
- Explain the significance and methods to pay tribute to American military heroes.



Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **Air Force** – military branch created during World War II when pilots were needed to fight from the sky; members, called “Airmen,” were originally part of the Army.
- 02 **Army** – oldest and largest branch of the military made up of soldiers who fight on all types of land.
- 03 **Coast Guard** – fourth branch of the military whose members, called “Coasties,” rescue and perform life-saving missions while guarding American coastlines.
- 04 **Marine Corps** – third branch of the military whose members, called “Marines,” help the other branches of the military fight on both land and sea.
- 05 **military** – members of the six branches of the United States armed forces.
- 06 **Navy** – second branch of the military made up of sailors who fight on warships in the world’s oceans.
- 07 **Space Force** – sixth branch of the military established in 2019; members, called “Guardians,” defend American interests on earth and beyond from space.
- 08 **volunteer** – is someone who offers their time and effort to help others without being paid.

Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

Do you know who some of the bravest heroes are in America? They may not wear capes like superheroes in movies and comic books, but they still do amazing things! These heroes are the men and women who serve in our military.

The **military** are members of the six branches of the United States armed forces. There are six groups that make up our military: the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force. Each branch has special skills and serves a specific purpose to help keep our country safe and strong. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about our American heroes!

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Episode:
Our American Heroes



Scan Me!



Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

Did you know that American military heroes have protected our country for more than 200 years? They've faced challenges like fighting pirates, defeating enemies in wars, and even helping us fly in the air! Let's learn a little more about each branch of the United States military.

Army – Started in 1775, even before America became a country! Members of this branch fight on land in a variety of places, from snowy mountains to hot deserts.

Navy – Started in the fall of 1775. Men and women in the Navy are like heroes of the sea! They serve on big ships called aircraft carriers and have sailors who make sure everything runs smoothly.

Marine Corps – Began on November 10, 1775. These special members of the military are called Marines and fight on land and sea, just like amphibians! The Marines watch over open seas and help out other branches of the military when they need it.

Coast Guard – Officially started in 1915. Members of this branch are like guardian angels of the sea! They are known as Coasties. They watch over open seas and help rescue people who are stranded in the water.

Air Force – Began in the early 1900s. Members of the Air Force soar through the sky, protecting us from above. Their service members are called Airmen.

Space Force – The newest branch of the military started in 2019. Men and women in the Space Force are like heroes for outer space! Members are called Guardians and they protect systems and interests on earth and beyond.

Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

What branch of the military would you want to join?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

In America, we have special days to honor the amazing people who keep us safe and protect our freedom. Two of the most important days are Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day happens on the last Monday of May. We remember and thank the brave soldiers who gave their lives fighting for our country. Veterans Day is on November 11th. We honor all the living heroes who served in the military but didn't lose their lives in battle.

Did you know that since 1973, everyone who joins the military does it because they want to, not because they have to? They volunteer to protect us! A **volunteer** is someone who offers their time and effort to help others without being paid.

There are a few more days that we dedicate to celebrate our nation's heroes. On the third Saturday of May, we celebrate all the branches of the military together on Armed Forces Day. We even have a day on March 13th to appreciate our furry friends who serve in the military. K-9 Veterans Day was established in 1942 to honor military dogs who are trained to detect mines, send messages, and serve alongside members of the armed forces.

Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

August 7th is National Purple Heart Day. On this day, we think about and thank the soldiers who got hurt while protecting us. On March 25th, we remember veterans who received the highest award for being heroes in combat. These heroes received the Medal of Honor. Over the last 160 years, only a few thousand people have ever received this honor.

ASK Students

Who do we celebrate on Memorial Day?

Who do we celebrate on Veterans Day?

Why are these national holidays important?

(allow students to respond)



WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:
Honoring Our Heroes



Scan Me!

Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

There are even more special days dedicated to honoring our heroes at home and abroad. These holidays honor members of every branch of the military along with their children and families! There are even holidays to remember notable moments in our nation's history where we won a major battle. These are just a few days our American heroes are honored:

Pearl Harbor Day – observed on December 7, honors the heroes who died in the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

D-Day – observed on June 6, in memory of the day the United States armed forces fought on the beaches of Normandy, France. This day marked the end of World War II.

Gold Star Family Day – observed on September 25, honors family members who have lost a loved one due to their ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

POW/MIA Recognition Day – observed on the third Friday in September, honors military members who were prisoners of war or who are missing in action.

Patriot Day – observed on September 11, honors the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks and the heroes that gave their lives attempting to rescue others.

ASK Students

Why is it important to honor our heroes?

(allow students to respond)

Our American Heroes - 1st Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

Just like your favorite superheroes, our military heroes are strong, smart, and brave. They use their powers for good to keep us safe. So, the next time you see someone in uniform, remember they are a real life military hero. Thank them for their service and their willingness to face danger every day so we can be safe.

ASK Students

What are some ways we can honor and remember American heroes?

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Optional Course Videos:

Learn More With Liberty: War Strategies

Learn More With Liberty: Ted Williams

Learn More With Liberty: Bernie Fisher

Learn More With Liberty: Audie Murphy

Learn More With Liberty: Doris Miller

Learn More With Liberty: Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain



Scan Me!

Our American Heroes Biography Activity

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer with information about an **American Hero** you have learned about.

My name is:

I was born on:

Here is a picture of me:

Two facts about me:

- 1.
- 2.

I'm remembered for:

Our American Heroes

Resource List

- 01 <https://www.usa.gov/join-military>
- 02 <https://www.goarmy.com/about/what-is-the-army/history.html>
- 03 <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/heritage/origins-of-the-navy/birth-of-the-us-navy.html>
- 04 <https://www.history.com/news/7-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-u-s-navy>
- 05 <https://www.gocoastguard.com/about-the-coast-guard/learn-the-history>
- 06 <https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/History/>
- 07 <https://www.uso.org/stories/2990-what-are-the-mottos-of-the-6-branches-of-the-u-s-military>
- 08 <https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Brief-Histories/Brief-History-of-the-United-States-Marine-Corps/>
- 09 <https://www.afhra.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/433914/the-birth-of-the-united-states-air-force/#:~:text=The%20National%20Security%20Act%20of,the%20Chief%20of%20Staff%2C%20USAF>

