

Discover America

Course 11 - Teacher Guide



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2nd Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Sacrifice
- Honor
- Bravery

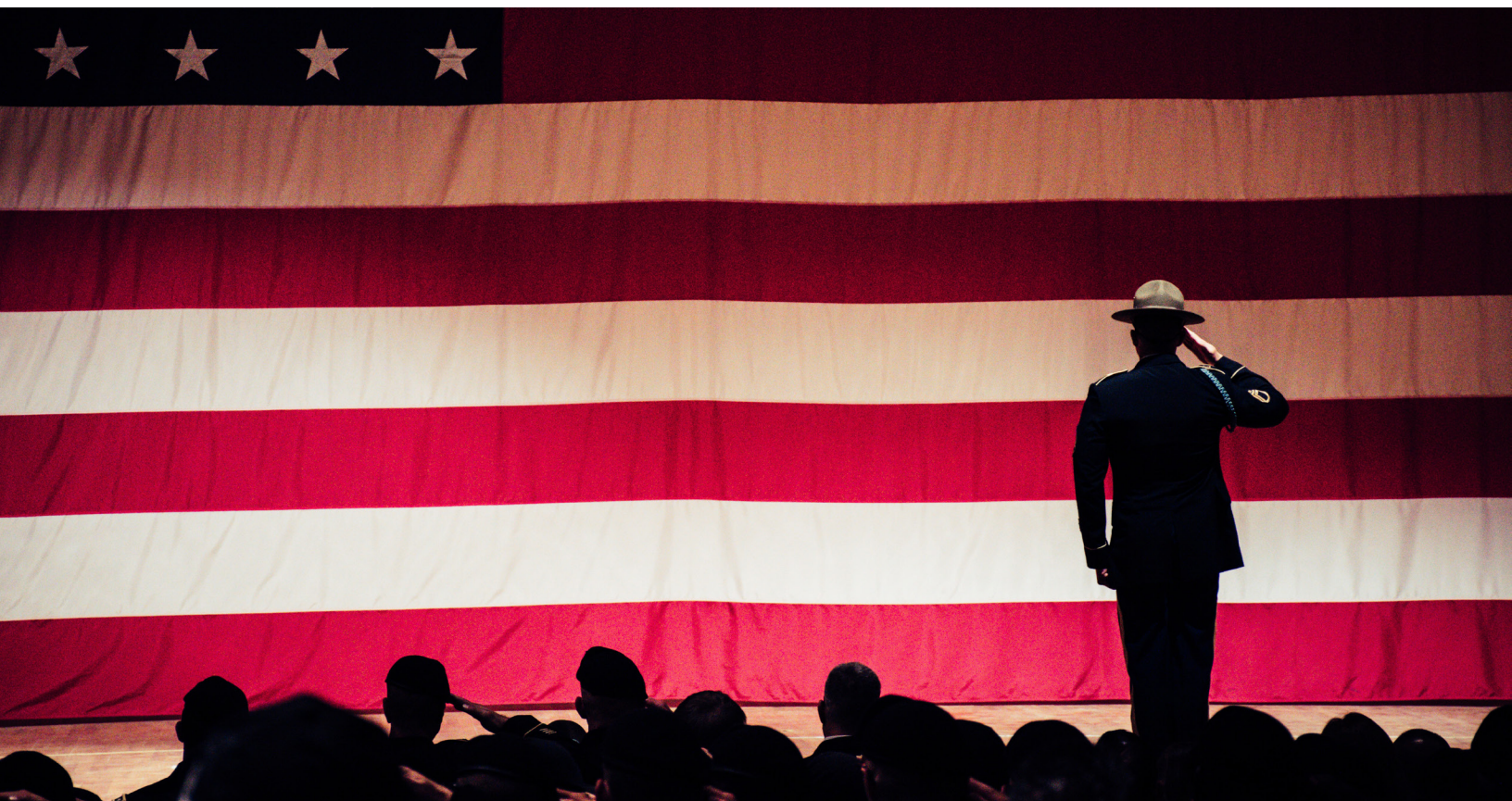
Core Values

- 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.
- Explain the significance of Patriot Day.



Our American Heroes - 2nd 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 **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.
- 08 **Space Force** – sixth branch of the military established in 2019; members, called “Guardians,” defend American interests on earth and beyond from space.
- 09 **terrorist** – the use of violence against civilians to achieve political or ideological goals.
- 10 **volunteer** – is someone who offers their time and effort to help others without being paid.

Our American Heroes - 2nd 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 - 2nd 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 of 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! They 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 of the Space Force are like heroes of outer space! Members are called Guardians and they protect systems and interests on earth and beyond.

Our American Heroes - 2nd 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 - 2nd 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)



Our American Heroes - 2nd Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

In addition to national holidays we have already explored, there is one special day when we remember something very important in America. It is on September 11th. On **Patriot Day**, we think about the brave heroes who helped others during a sad and scary time in our country's history. Our nation was attacked on this day in 2001 by a group of terrorists, killing nearly 3,000 innocent Americans. A **terrorist** uses violence against civilians to achieve political or ideological goals. Patriot Day is observed to remember those we lost, in addition to the firefighters, police officers, and everyday people who showed incredible courage and kindness on this tragic day.

Patriot Day is a time for us to come together as Americans and show love and support for each other. It reminds us to be strong, kind, and to always help our friends and neighbors when they need it.

ASK Students

Why do you think it is important for us to honor heroes from September 11th, Patriot Day?

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:
Patriot Day



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Our American Heroes - 2nd 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



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Our American Heroes - 2nd Grade

Assessment

- 01 Which branch of the military fights on land like snowy mountains and hot deserts?
- a) Navy
 - b) Marine Corps
 - c) Army
 - d) Coast Guard
- 02 What is the newest branch of the military, established in 2019?
- a) Army
 - b) Space Force
 - c) Coast Guard
 - d) Air Force
- 03 When do we honor brave soldiers who lost their lives fighting for our country?
- a) Veterans Day
 - b) Armed Forces Day
 - c) Memorial Day
 - d) Patriot Day
- 04 Which branch of the military primarily protects us from threats in the sky?
- a) Marine Corps
 - b) Coast Guard
 - c) Air Force
 - d) Navy
- 05 What is the purpose of Patriot Day?
- a) To celebrate the birthday of a famous hero
 - b) To honor heroes and Americans who lost lives during the September 11 attack
 - c) To commemorate the founding of the United States military
 - d) To recognize the achievements of military dogs

Our American Heroes - 2nd Grade

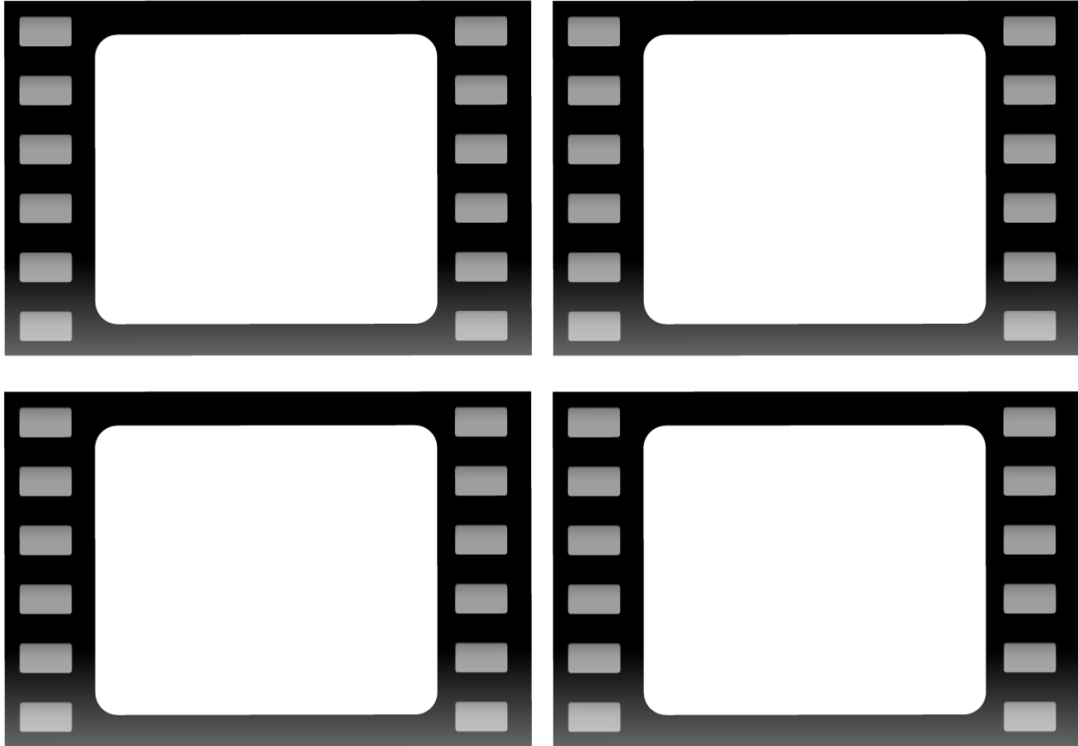
Assessment **Key**

- 01 **c)** Army
- 02 **b)** Space Force
- 03 **c)** Memorial Day
- 04 **c)** Air Force
- 05 **b)** To honor heroes and Americans who lost lives during the September 11 attack

Our American Heroes

Show What You Know!

DRAW four pictures and **WRITE** four sentences about the United States Military.



01

02

03

04

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>

