

Discover America

Course 11 - Teacher Guide



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3rd Grade

Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Sacrifice
- Honor
- Bravery

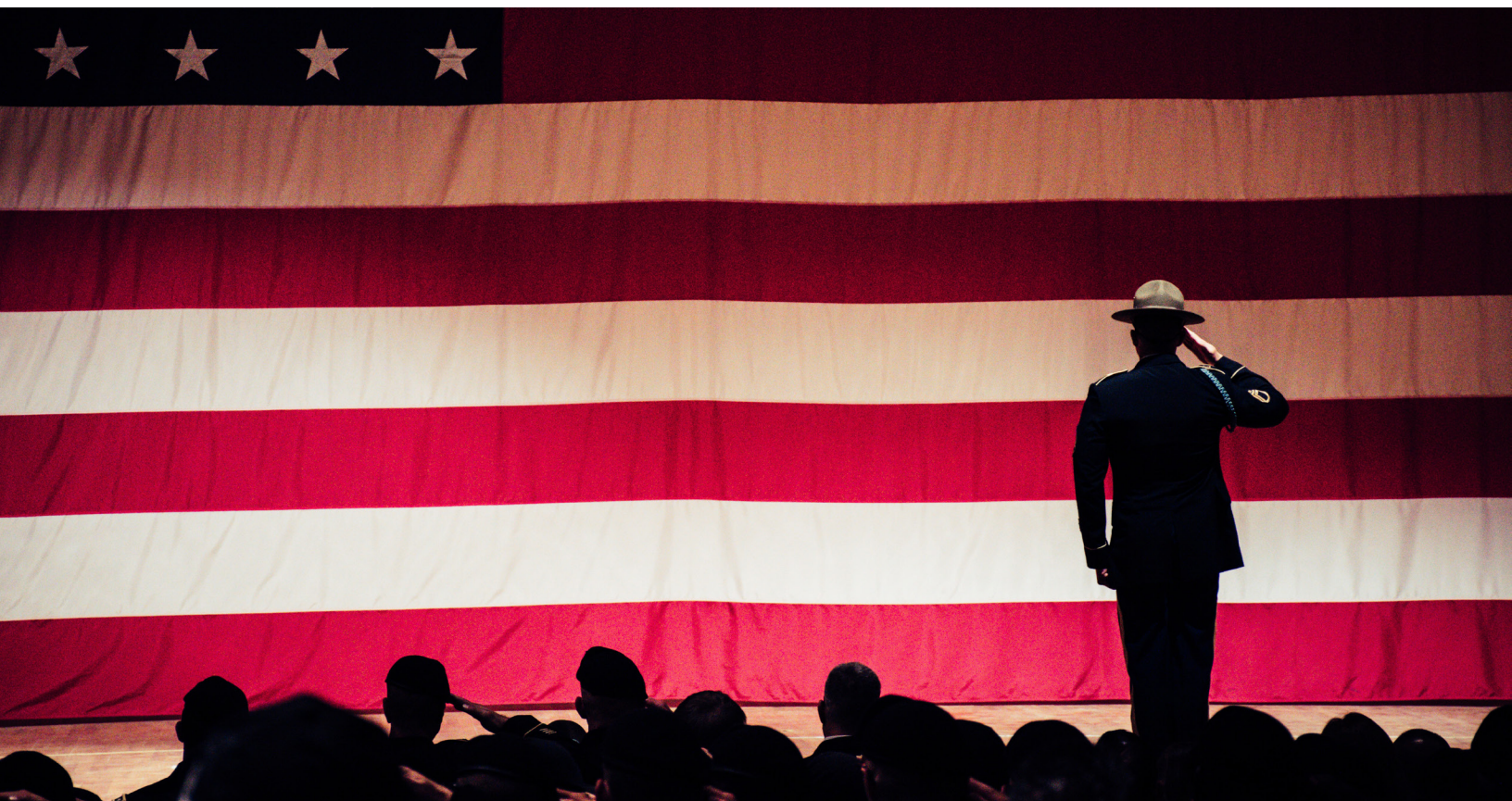
Core Values

- Community
- Liberty
- Life

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the six branches of the United States military.
- Explain sacrifice.
- Define first responder and the important role they serve in our community.



Our American Heroes - 3rd 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 **first responders** – trained professionals who arrive first at an emergency scene.
- 05 **Marine Corps** – third branch of the military whose members, called “Marines,” help the other branches of the military fight on both land and sea.
- 06 **military** – members of the six branches of the United States armed forces.
- 07 **Navy** – second branch of the military made up of sailors who fight on warships in the world’s oceans.
- 08 **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.
- 09 **sacrifice** – to give something up.
- 10 **Space Force** – sixth branch of the military established in 2019; members, called “Guardians,” defend American interests on earth and beyond from space.

Our American Heroes - 3rd 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 - 3rd 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 - 3rd Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

What does the word sacrifice mean?

(allow students to respond)

TELL Students

Sacrifice simply means to give something up. The concept of sacrifice has deep roots in American history and in the culture of civilizations that came before us. This can serve as an inspiration to us all. We should honor individuals who willingly put themselves in harm's way, sacrificing for the safety of others.

Did you know that American heroes are not just members of the armed forces? First responders are another example of men and women who sacrifice their time and safety in service of others. **First responders** are trained professionals from law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency response who arrive first at an emergency scene.

ASK Students

Do you know someone who is a first responder?

(allow students to respond)

WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:
First Responders



Scan Me!

Our American Heroes - 3rd Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

One of the most memorable examples of sacrifice in recent history was on September 11, 2001. On this day our nation was attacked by a group of terrorists who killed nearly 3,000 innocent Americans. Of those that lost their lives, over 400 were first responders. Instead of running away from burning buildings, clouds of ash, and great danger, they ran into fire, dust, and harm's way. Countless lives were rescued because of the heroism and sacrifice of these American heroes.

On **Patriot Day** (September 11) we think about the firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who helped others during a sad and scary time in our country's history. Patriot Day is observed to honor those we lost and those who showed incredible courage and kindness on this tragic day.

ASK Students

Why is it important to honor heroes on Patriot Day

(allow students to respond)



World Trade Center

Our American Heroes - 3rd 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

How can we honor our 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 - 3rd Grade

Assessment

- 01 Who are considered some of the bravest heroes in America?
- a) Superheroes in movies
 - b) The men and women who serve in the military
 - c) Famous movie stars
 - d) Historical figures
- 02 How many branches make up the United States armed forces?
- a) Four
 - b) Five
 - c) Six
 - d) Seven
- 03 Which branch of the military fights watches over open seas and helps rescue people stranded in water?
- a) Navy
 - b) Marine Corps
 - c) Army
 - d) Coast Guard
- 04 What is the oldest branch of the military, established before America was a country?
- a) Army
 - b) Space Force
 - c) Coast Guard
 - d) Air Force
- 05 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

Our American Heroes - 3rd Grade

Assessment

- 06 Who is considered a first responder?
- a) Police Officer
 - b) Firefighter
 - c) Emergency Responder
 - d) All the above
- 07 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 dog
- 08 Who are the members of the Space Force referred to as?
- a) Airmen
 - b) Sailors
 - c) Coasties
 - d) Guardians
- 09 What does the concept of sacrifice mean?
- a) Gaining something important
 - b) Giving something up
 - c) Protecting only oneself
 - d) Avoiding danger
- 10 Who are the members of the Coast Guard referred to as?
- a) Airmen
 - b) Sailors
 - c) Coasties
 - d) Guardians

Our American Heroes - 3rd Grade

Assessment Key

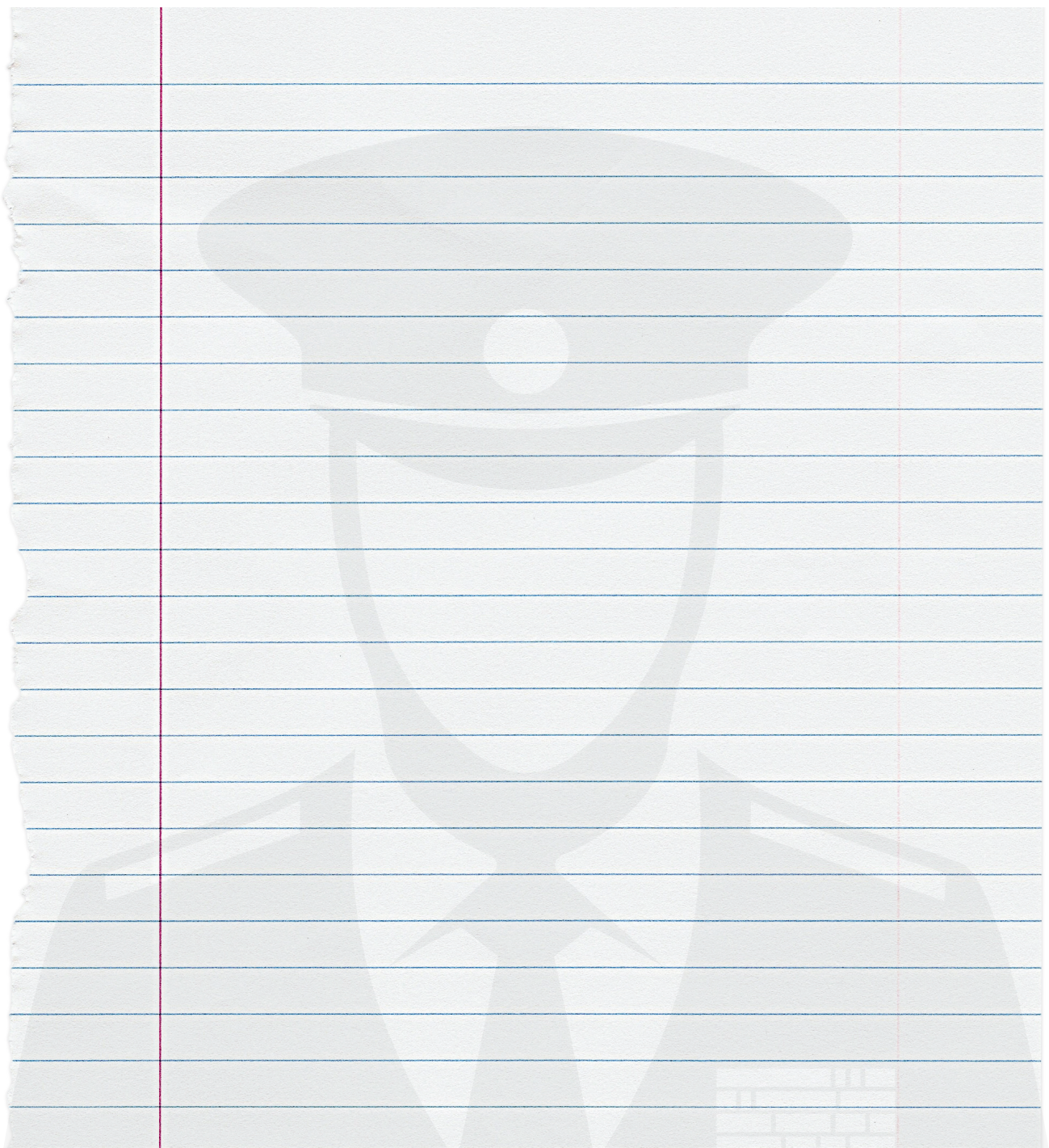
- 01 **b)** The men and women who serve in the military
- 02 **c)** Six
- 03 **d)** Coast Guard
- 04 **a)** Army
- 05 **c)** Memorial Day
- 06 **d)** All the above
- 07 **b)** To honor heroes and Americans who lost lives during the September 11 attack
- 08 **d)** Guardians
- 09 **b)** Giving something up
- 10 **c)** Coasties

United States Military

Our American Heroes

Write a Letter to a Hero

- ◆ Write a letter to a military hero. This could be addressed to someone you know and respect. Your letter may also be written to someone you don't know who is currently serving our country. What would you say to this person for their display of courage and dedication? Be sure to highlight the reasons you believe they are impacting our country in a positive way.



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>

