

# Discover America

## Course 11 - Teacher Guide



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4th Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Sacrifice
- Honor
- Bravery

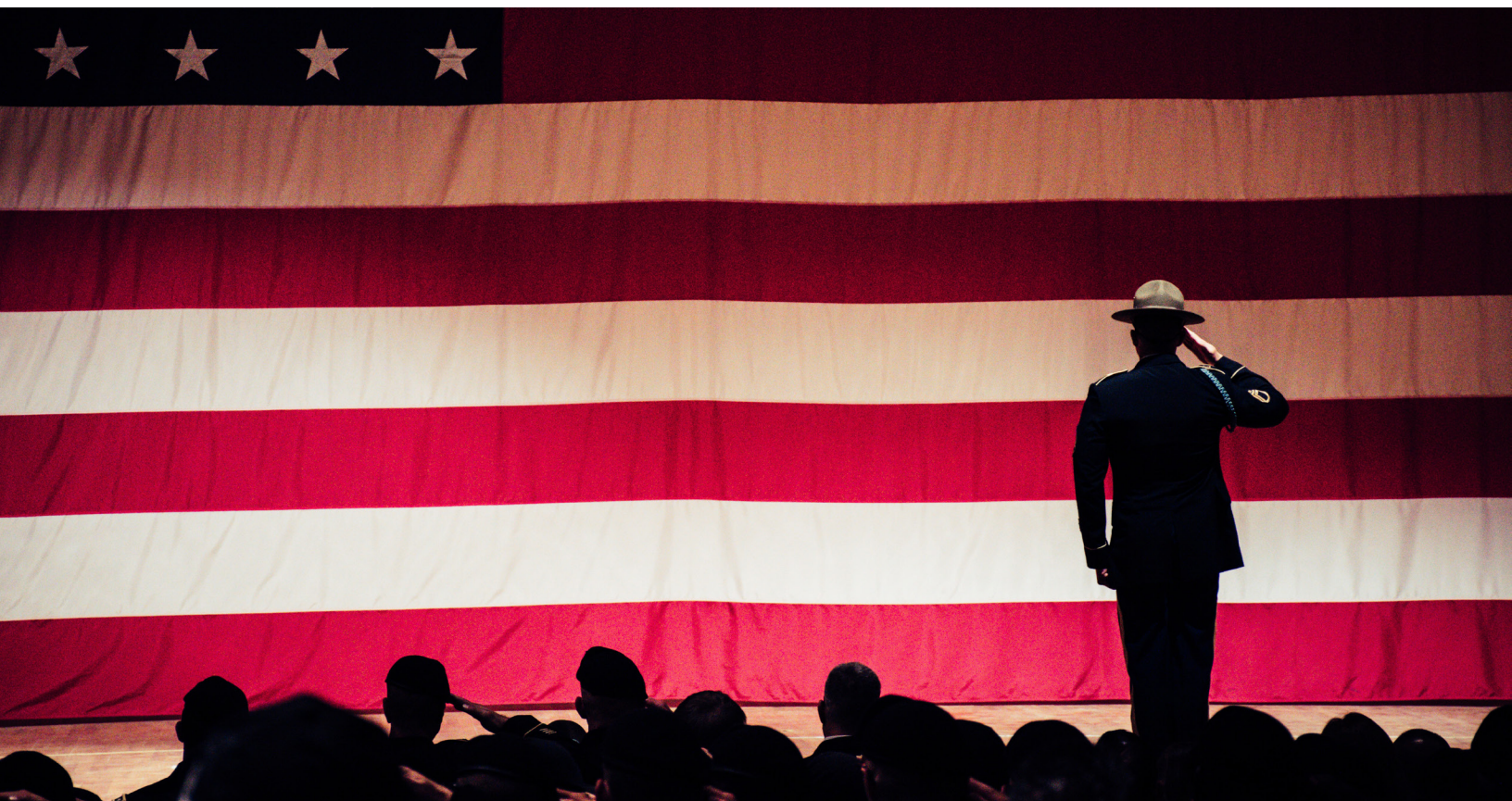
## Core Values

- 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.
- Analyze the impact of World War II on American history.



# Our American Heroes - 4th 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 **economy** - how people use money and resources to produce, buy, and sell goods and services in a certain area.
- 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 **sacrifice** – to give something up.

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

## Key Terms

- 09 **Space Force** – sixth branch of the military established in 2019; members, called “Guardians,” defend American interests on earth and beyond from space.
- 10 **World War II** - a global conflict that lasted from 1939-1945 involving most of the world’s nations including the United States, Soviet Union, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom. It is considered one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

# Our American Heroes - 4th 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. They sacrifice a great deal for our freedom. **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. We should honor those who willingly put themselves in harm's way for the safety and security of others. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about our American heroes and their sacrifices!

## WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Episode:  
*Our American Heroes*



Scan Me!



# Our American Heroes - 4th 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** – America's oldest branch of the military. The Army was established in 1775, before America became a country! The Army was formed to defend the 13 colonies from the British. Before serving as our first president, George Washington was selected as the first commander of the army.

Members of this branch fight on land across a variety of terrain, from snowy mountains and dense forests, to blistering hot deserts and vast valleys. Today, the Army is the largest branch of the military.

**Navy** – Started in the fall of 1775. Men and women of the Navy are like heroes of the sea! They serve on ships called aircraft carriers. Some carriers are so big that they can hold thousands of soldiers and multiple planes.

At the time of the Revolutionary War, Britain had the strongest navy in the world. Washington knew that a navy was critical for the success of the colonies in a war against Britain. The navy would be important to make sure that American ships filled with goods could make it to their destination to be sold.

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

# Lesson

**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.

After the American victory in the Revolutionary War, the Navy and the Marine Corps dissolved. After all, paying for these forces was expensive and Britain no longer seemed to be a problem. Not long afterward, American ships started getting attacked by pirates as they sailed across the seas. Our new nation realized that the protection of Americans across the oceans of the world was necessary. The Navy was reestablished by Congress in 1794. As the Navy expanded, it became necessary to reestablish the Marine Corps just a few years later in 1798.

**Coast Guard** – 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. Although the Coast Guard was officially started in 1915, it was known by another name many, many years before.

In the late 1700s, George Washington knew that with all the goods transported along the American coastline, America would need to make sure the law was followed. To help enforce laws and prevent people from sneaking goods in and out of the country (also known as smuggling) Washington decided to establish the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790. The name was later changed to the Coast Guard in 1915.

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

# Lesson

**Air Force** – Members of the Air Force soar through the sky, protecting us from above. Their service members are called Airmen.

This branch of the military began in the early 1900s, following the Wright Brothers' first flight. The American military took to the sky and trained their first pilots. During World War II, the size of America's air forces dramatically increased. Airplane technology had greatly improved and a significant portion of the war was fought from the air. The Air Force was officially established in 1947, after World War II ended.

**Space Force** – Throughout history, the American military has developed and adapted to meet the challenges our nation faces. Humans continue to explore what lies beyond planet Earth. New technology is also being developed, making it possible to travel in space. This is why the United States established the newest military branch in 2019, the Space Force.

Members of the Space Force are called Guardians. They protect space systems and defend American interests on earth and beyond.

## **ASK** Students

What branch of the military would you want to join?

*(allow students to respond)*



First U.S. Space Force launch, March 2020.

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

**World War II** was incredibly important for America. It was a global conflict that lasted from 1939-1945 involving most of the world's nations including the United States, Soviet Union, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom. It is considered one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

This war's impact on our nation cannot be overstated. When the war began, America was in debt and struggling to recover from the Great Depression. Its military wasn't very strong, and people wondered if it could even defend the country. But by the end of the war, America had become a powerful nation. Its economy was strong, and it had become a leader in the world. An **economy** is a system in which people use money and resources to produce, buy, and sell goods and services in a certain area.

## WATCH

Learn More With Liberty Video:  
*World War II*



Scan Me!

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

The American military saw massive growth during World War II. In less than four years, the United States armed forces grew from 1.4 million in 1941 to more than 15 million by 1945. During the war, many new inventions and discoveries were made that changed the world forever. Things like radar, computers, and airplanes revolutionized how wars were fought and how people lived their lives. Radar helped soldiers detect enemy planes and ships from far away, keeping them safer. Computers, even though they were big and not like the ones we have today, helped make complex calculations and code-breaking faster. Airplanes became faster and could carry more bombs or supplies, helping soldiers reach places they couldn't before. These inventions made a big difference in World War II and paved the way for many of the technologies we use today, like smartphones and airplanes that fly us around the world.

## 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 - 4th 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.



# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade Assessment

01 When was the United States Army established?

02 What was the purpose of establishing the Navy during the Revolutionary War?

03 What special amphibian-like nickname do members of the Marine Corps have?

04 What was the Coast Guard originally known as in the late 1700s?

05 When did the Air Force officially become a separate branch of the military?

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade Assessment

06 What technology greatly improved during World War II?

07 What is the newest branch of the United States military, established in 2019?

08 What are members of the Space Force called?

09 How much did the United States armed forces grow from 1941 to 1945?

10 Which branch of the military watches over open seas and performs water rescues?

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade **Assessment Key**

- 01 **b)** 1775
- 02 **a)** To protect American ships from pirates
- 03 **c)** Marines
- 04 **d)** Revenue Cutter Service
- 05 **c)** 1947
- 06 **c)** Airplanes
- 07 **d)** Space Force
- 08 **d)** Guardians
- 09 **c)** From 1.4 million to over 15 million
- 10 **b)** Coast Guard

# The Branches of the United States Military

Complete the graphic organizer to identify when each branch of the military was established and detail the corresponding responsibility.

## ARMY

Established On:

Responsible for:

## NAVY

Established On:

Responsible for:

## MARINES

Established On:

Responsible for:

# The Branches of the United States Military

Complete the graphic organizer to identify when each branch of the military was established and detail the corresponding responsibility.

## COAST GUARD

Established On:

Responsible for:

## AIR FORCE

Established On:

Responsible for:

## SPACE FORCE

Established On:

Responsible for:

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*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. They sacrifice a great deal for our freedom. 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. We should honor those who willingly put themselves in harm's way for the safety and security of others.*

*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!*

**Army** – *America's oldest branch of the military. The Army was established in 1775, before America became a country! The Army was formed to defend the 13 colonies from the British. Before serving as our first president, George Washington was selected as the first commander of the army.*

*Members of this branch fight on land across a variety of terrain, from snowy mountains and dense forests, to blistering hot deserts and vast valleys. Today, the Army is the largest branch of the military.*

**Navy** – *Started in the fall of 1775. Men and women of the Navy are like heroes of the sea! They serve on ships called aircraft carriers. Some carriers are so big that they can hold thousands of soldiers and multiple planes.*

*At the time of the Revolutionary War, Britain had the strongest navy in the world. Washington knew that a navy was critical for the success of the colonies in a war against Britain. The navy would be important to make sure that American ships filled with goods could make it to their destination to be sold.*

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## Student Text

**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.

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In the late 1700s, George Washington knew that with all the goods transported along the American coastline, America would need to make sure the law was followed. To help enforce laws and prevent people from sneaking goods in and out of the country (also known as smuggling) Washington decided to establish the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790. The name was later changed to the Coast Guard in 1915.

**Air Force** – Members of the Air Force soar through the sky, protecting us from above. Their service members are called Airmen.

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*This branch of the military began in the early 1900s, following the Wright Brothers' first flight. The American military took to the sky and trained their first pilots. During World War II, the size of America's air forces dramatically increased. Airplane technology had greatly improved and a significant portion of the war was fought from the air. The Air Force was officially established in 1947, after World War II ended.*

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*Members of the Space Force are called Guardians. They protect space systems and defend American interests on earth and beyond.*

*World War II was incredibly important for America. It was a global conflict that lasted from 1939-1945 involving most of the world's nations including the United States, Soviet Union, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom. It is considered one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.*

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First U.S. Space Force launch, March 2020.

# Our American Heroes - 4th Grade

## Student Text

*Its military wasn't very strong, and people wondered if it could even defend the country. But by the end of the war, America had become a powerful nation. Its economy was strong, and it had become a leader in the world. An economy is a system in which people use money and resources to produce, buy, and sell goods and services in a certain area.*

*The American military saw massive growth during World War II. In less than four years, the United States armed forces grew from 1.4 million in 1941 to more than 15 million by 1945. During the war, many new inventions and discoveries were made that changed the world forever. Things like radar, computers, and airplanes that could fly long distances were developed.*

*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.*



# 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>

