

# Discover America

## Course 11 - Teacher Guide



# Table of **Contents**

3	<b>Themes + Values</b>
4	<b>Learning Objectives</b>
5	<b>Key Terms</b>
7	<b>Introduction</b>
8	<b>Lesson</b>
17	<b>Assessment</b>
20	<b>Assessment Key</b>
21	<b>Timeline Activity</b>
23	<b>Student Text</b>
28	<b>Resources</b>
29	<b>Notes</b>

5th Grade

# Teacher Guide



## Key Themes

- Sacrifice
- Honor
- Bravery

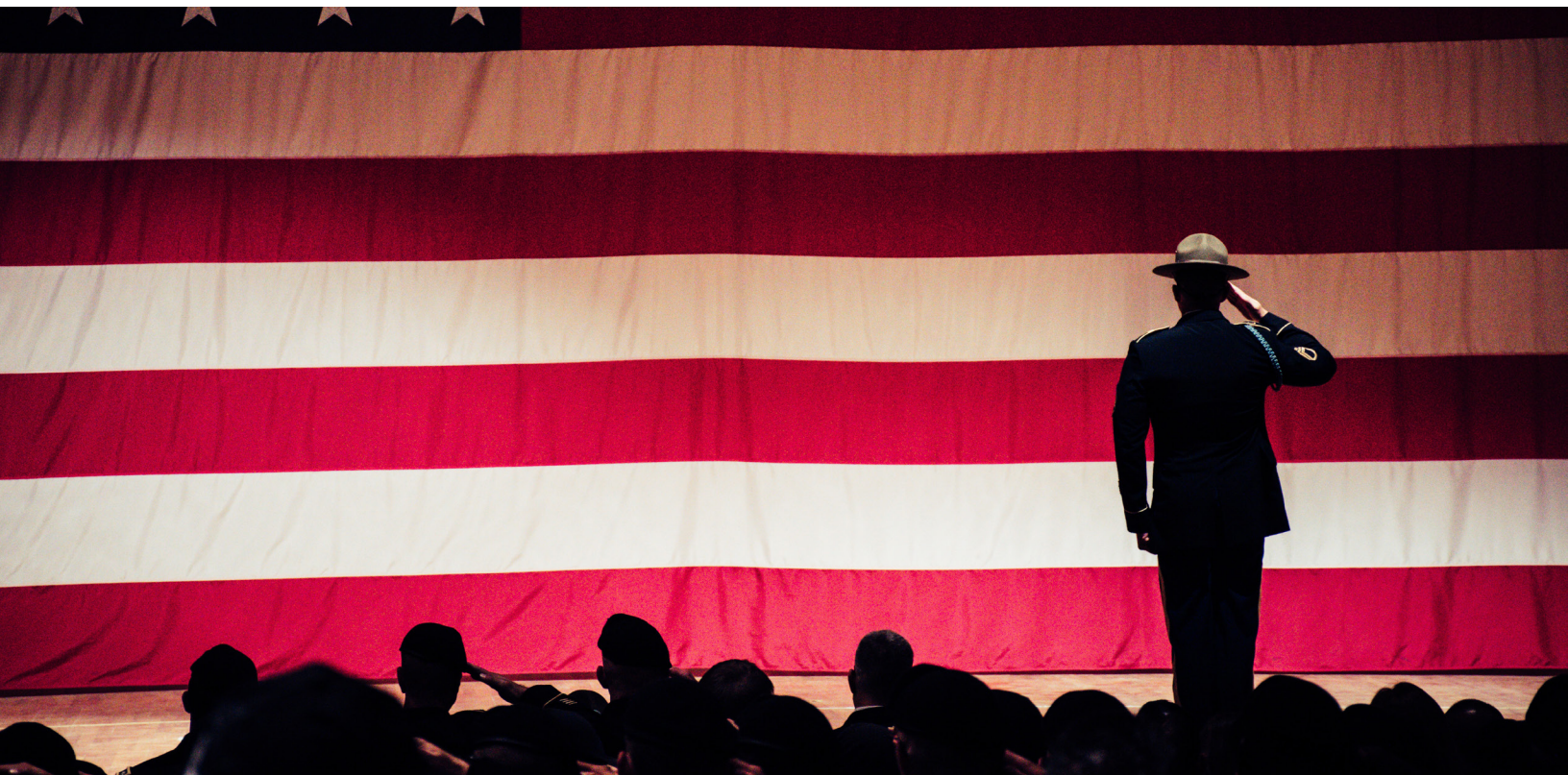
## Core Values

- 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.
- Analyze the significance of honoring military heroes in fostering patriotism and personal growth as a citizen of the United States.



# Our American Heroes - 5th 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** - a system in which people use money and resources to produce, buy, and sell goods and services in a certain area.
- 05 **first responders** – trained professionals who arrive first at an emergency scene.
- 06 **Marine Corps** – third branch of the military whose members, called “Marines,” help the other branches of the military fight on both land and sea.
- 07 **military** – members of the six branches of the United States armed forces.
- 08 **Navy** – second branch of the military made up of sailors who fight on warships in the world’s oceans.

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

## Key Terms

- 09 **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.
- 10 **sacrifice** – to give something up.
- 11 **Space Force** – sixth branch of the military established in 2019; members, called “Guardians,” defend American interests on earth and beyond from space.
- 12 **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 - 5th 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 - 5th 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 June of 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.

**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.

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

# Lesson

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.

**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.

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

# Lesson

**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 is most interesting to you?

*(allow students to respond)*



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

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

# Lesson

## **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!



# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

# Lesson

## **TELL** Students

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.

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 - 5th 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 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.

## TELL Students

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.

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

One of the most memorable examples of sacrifice in recent history was on September 11, 2001. Our nation was attacked on this day 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

Do you know someone who is a first responder?

Why is it important to honor heroes on Patriot Day?

*(allow students to respond)*



World Trade Center

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

# Lesson

## TELL Students

There was a time in our country's past where American heroes rapidly grew in number. **World War II** was incredibly important for America and its impact on our nation cannot be overstated. 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.

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.

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, growth was also seen through technology and innovation. Many new inventions and discoveries were made that changed the world forever. Things like radars, computers, and airplanes that could fly long distances were developed.

## ASK Students

What areas experienced growth during World War II?

*(allow students to respond)*

# Our American Heroes - 5th 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 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 - 5th Grade Assessment

- 01 When was the United States Army established?  
a) 1776  
b) 1775  
c) 1789  
d) 1798
- 02 What was the purpose of establishing the Navy during the Revolutionary War?  
a) To protect American ships from pirates  
b) To transport soldiers to the battlefield  
c) To deliver goods to other countries  
d) To explore new territories
- 03 What special amphibian-like nickname do members of the Marine Corps have?  
a) Sailors  
b) Soldiers  
c) Marines  
d) Coasties
- 04 What was the Coast Guard originally known as in the late 1700s?  
a) Navy  
b) Air Force  
c) Marines  
d) Revenue Cutter Service
- 05 When did the Air Force officially become a separate branch of the military?  
a) 1920  
b) 1935  
c) 1947  
d) 1955
- 06 Who is considered a first responder?  
a) Police Officer  
b) Firefighter  
c) Emergency Responder  
d) All the above

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade Assessment

- 07 What technology greatly improved during World War II?
- a) Computers
  - b) Televisions
  - c) Airplanes
  - d) Cars
- 08 What is the newest branch of the United States military, established in 2019?
- a) Army
  - b) Navy
  - c) Coast Guard
  - d) Space Force
- 09 What are members of the Space Force called?
- a) Pilots
  - b) Sailors
  - c) Airmen
  - d) Guardians
- 10 How much did the United States armed forces grow from 1941 to 1945?
- a) From 500,000 to 2 million
  - b) From 1.7 million to 10 million
  - c) From 1.4 million to over 15 million
  - d) From 2 million to 5 million
- 11 Which branch of the military watches over open seas and performs water rescues?
- a) Army
  - b) Coast Guard
  - c) Air Force
  - d) Marine Corps
- 12 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 - 5th Grade Assessment

13 Members of the Navy serve on ships called \_\_\_\_\_.

14 Which national holiday marked the end of World War II?

15 Which national holiday honors military dogs?

16 \_\_\_\_\_ means to give something up.

17 What are members of the Air Force and Coast Guard called?

18 What is a system in which people use money and resources to produce, buy, and sell goods and services in a certain area?

# Our American Heroes - 5th 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 **d)** All the above
- 07 **c)** Airplanes
- 08 **d)** Space Force
- 09 **d)** Guardians
- 10 **c)** From 1.4 million to over 15 million
- 11 **b)** Coast Guard
- 12 **b)** To honor heroes and Americans who lost lives during the September
- 13 **c)** Aircraft carriers
- 14 **d)** D-Day
- 15 **d)** K-9 Veterans Day
- 16 **c)** Sacrifice
- 17 **b)** Airmen and Coasties
- 18 **b)** Economy

# Our American Heroes

# Timeline

June 1775

Fall 1775

Nov. 1775

1790

A horizontal timeline line with four red circular markers. Below the line are four empty rectangular boxes for notes.

1915

1947

2019

A horizontal timeline line with three red circular markers. Below the line are three empty rectangular boxes for notes.

**Using the blank timeline, fill in the following events in the order in which they occurred:**

- The Air Force was established and became responsible for all operations in the sky.
- The Marine Corps was established as an amphibious force, meaning they operate on land and sea.
- The Navy was established, where sailors fight on oceans far away on big warships.
- The Revenue Cutter Service was renamed and became the Coast Guard.
- The Revenue Cutter Service was established by George Washington.
- The Space Force was established as the sixth and newest branch of the military.
- The Army was established initially to defend the 13 colonies from the British.

# Our American Heroes

## Timeline

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Fall 1775

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The Army was established initially to defend the 13 colonies from the British.

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1915

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- The Army was established initially to defend the 13 colonies from the British.

# Our American Heroes - 5th 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! Let's learn a little more about each branch of the United States military.*

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*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.*

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# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

## 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.

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.



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# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

## Student Text

**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.

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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.



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

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!

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.

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# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

## Student Text

*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:*

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**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.

*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.*

*One of the most memorable examples of sacrifice in recent history was on September 11, 2001. Our nation was attacked on this day 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.*



World Trade Center

# Our American Heroes - 5th Grade

## Student Text

*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.*

*There was a time in our country's past where American heroes rapidly grew in number. World War II was incredibly important for America and its impact on our nation cannot be overstated. 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.*

*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.*



*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, growth was also seen through technology and innovation. Many new inventions and discoveries were made that changed the world forever. Things like radars, 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>

