# Honoring Our Veterans

In this lesson, students will understand the significance of Veterans Day, including its history and the contributions of military personnel.

| Grades: 3-5 | Subject(s): SS/ELA |
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| Focus Standard(s) | **D2.Civ.10.3–5:** Identify the responsibilities of citizens and describe how people have worked together to make a difference in communities and the nation.<br>**D2.His.2.3–5:** Compare life in specific historical time periods to life today.<br>**RI.1:** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for answers.<br>**RI.3:** Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, using time, sequence, and cause/effect language.<br>**SL.1:** Engage effectively in collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade-level topics and texts. |
| Learning Objective(s) | Students will be able to:<br>● explain why and how Veterans Day began.<br>● describe how Americans honor veterans today.<br>● show appreciation for people who have served in the military. |
| Materials/Resources | Thank You, Veterans!<br>Plain paper<br>Colored pencils, crayons, or markers |
| Vocabulary | **proclamation:** official order<br>**solemn**: serious; grave; sad<br>**gratitude:** gratefulness; thankfulness<br>**Armistice:** peace |
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| Anticipatory Set | Begin with a brief discussion about what students know about holidays. Ask students, "What is a holiday? Can you name a holiday that honors people who have done something special for our country?"<br><br>Then play the short video found within the article. |
| Mini-Lesson | Read the article aloud as a class, or have students take turns reading paragraphs.<br><br>Pause throughout to ask quick questions:<br>● “What was the first name of Veterans Day?”<br>● “Why did President Eisenhower change the name?”<br>● “What is the purpose of Veterans Day?” |
| Guided Practice | As a whole group, work together to build a simple timeline on the board:<br><br>**1918:** World War I ended (Armistice signed)<br>**1919:** President Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day<br>**1938:** Armistice Day became a legal holiday<br>**1954:** Name changed to Veterans Day<br><br>Then ask students, “What changed about the holiday? Who does Veterans |

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| | Day honor now?" |
| Independent Practice | Explain that many people in our communities are veterans. And one way to show our appreciation for their service is by writing a thank-you note. Provide students with a blank piece of paper and colored pencils or markers. Instruct students to write a thank-you note and draw a picture for a veteran. Provide sentence stems if needed.<br><br>Example sentence stems:<br>*Thank you for . . .*<br>*We honor your . . .*<br>*We appreciate . . .*<br><br>Collect the cards to send to a local veterans' organization or display them in the classroom. |
| Closure/Assessment | Lead a discussion, asking students the following questions:<br>● *"What did you learn about how Veterans Day started?"*<br>● *"Why is it important to thank veterans?"*<br>● *"How can we honor them all year long?"* |
| Differentiation | Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or Read-to-Me feature as needed; print copies of article |