



Thank/Introduce a Veteran

Teacher/ Lesson Author/School: Ann Kalasky, Green Acres Elementary School - Manchester
Editor: Rachel M. Stanton, M.Ed '18
Content Area: Civics/Social Studies; Veteran's Day
Grade: Kindergarten - 2nd grade - can modify by omitting certain parts of lesson

Note: This lesson should be broken up into multiple days - students will need to learn about Veteran's Day, and acquire the information about their veteran before they can contribute to the "Wall of Pride". Also, letter home needs to be sent out for this assignment, see below.

**Standards:**

C3: College, Career, & Civic Life

D2.Civ.2.K-2. Explain how all people, not just official leaders, play important roles in a community.

D2.Civ.6.K-2. Describe how communities work to accomplish common tasks, establish responsibilities, and fulfill roles of authority

D2.Civ.7.K-2. Apply civic virtues when participating in school settings.

C3 STANDARDS	Check
(Please indicate where standards are being utilized in this learning experience.)	
Civic & Political Institutions	X
Participation & Deliberation	X
Process, Rules, and Laws	

**6 Essential Civic Learning Practices:**

(Please indicate which of these are being utilized in this learning experience.)

Provide instruction in government, history, law, and democracy.		Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their schools or communities.	X
Incorporate discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events in the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives.		Encourage student participation in school governance.	



Design and implement programs that provide students with opportunities to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction.	<b>X</b>	Encourage students' participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.	
---	----------	--	--

**Objective:** (what will students be able to do or understand after the lesson)

Given background knowledge on Veteran's Day and who veterans are, students will be able to give at least 2 reasons why veterans are so important.

**Materials:** (will be specific to your modifications)

**(Please also include rubrics and other essential materials.)**

- Letter home explaining assignment
- Let me introduce my veteran worksheet
- Copies of patriotic border sheet for "Wall of Pride"
- Information about Veteran's Day
- [Ways to Honor Vets on 11/11](#) (could include this in letter home)
- "Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood" by Valerie Pfundstein
- "The Wall" - Eve Bunting (for older students)
- Partially adapted from  
<http://users.manchester.edu/Student/jbeakas/ProfWeb/Veteran's%20Day%20lesson%20plan.pdf>

**Differentiation:** (Describe how you plan to adjust the curriculum, instruction, or learning environment to meet the diverse needs of your student population, including gifted and talented.)

Student with attention challenges: Allow this student to pass out and collect the letters from his or her peers, so that they are able to get up and move around.

Student classified as MoMD (moderate mental disability): Allow the student to verbally tell the teacher, aide, or a peer what they want in their letter, while that person records what the student has said.

Gifted and Talented Student: Allow this student to record what a student with lower ability (such as the student classified as MoMD) says and to assist them in writing the letter.



Student with an orthopedic impairment: For a student who has difficulty with holding/gripping a pencil or difficulty with handwriting, allow them to type out their letter on a computer or use speech to text software if available.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN	Est. Time
<p><b>Introduction/Hook:</b>            Before students come into class in the morning, write the questions “Why do we celebrate Veteran’s Day?” and “What is a veteran?” on the board (students should already be aware of the procedures for bell work: as soon as they enter the classroom and have their things put away, they should get out their writer’s notebooks and quietly begin to write an answer to the question).</p> <p>The teacher will assess the students prior knowledge by checking to see how many students already knew the answers to these questions.</p> <p>For younger students:            Ask students if they know what holiday is coming up in November?            See if students know what a “Veteran” is. Perhaps brainstorm and list some words or ideas on the board.</p>	<p>5 mins</p>
<p><b>Core Lesson:</b>  <b>For younger students:</b>            Gather students on rug for story-time. Read a book about Veteran’s Day. I typically read, “Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood” by Valerie Pfundstein. There are many out there. Discuss the major aspects of Veteran’s Day and why Veterans are important in our local and greater community. “They keep us safe”, “they help other countries”, etc.</p> <p>Explain to students that you will be sending home an information sheet home to explain the “Wall of Pride” they will be creating. They will work with their family to find a relative or friend who has served in the Armed Forces. They will try to get a photograph and fill in the information on the “Let Me Introduce My Veteran” sheet.</p>	<p>30-35 mins</p>



Once these are brought in by students, they can begin to decorate their picture and info sheet. Before the students hang up their work, provide time for students to introduce their veteran to classmates. Then showcase their work in the hallway or in the classroom.

**For older students:**

- Ask students why they think Veteran’s Day is a very important holiday. It is the day that we honor the men and women that have fought for our country.
- Ask students to quietly raise their hands if they have a relative or a family friend that has served in the military.
- Introduce the story you plan to read to students (ex. The Wall by Eve Bunting - explain that it is a story about a little boy whose grandfather served and was killed in the Vietnam War
- Read the story The Wall to students.
- Tell the students that “The Wall” that they referred to in the story is a real place in Washington D.C. It lists the names of over 58,000 soldiers who lost their lives in the war.
- With students, generate a list on the board of reasons why the men and women in the military are so important to our country (these should be things such as “They keep us safe” and “They give us our freedom”).
- Tell students that it is important that we thank our veterans for everything that they have done for us.
- Have students write a letter to a veteran thanking them for serving our country. In the letter, have students include 2 reasons why veterans are such important people for us to honor. You might want to create a template for students depending on their level.
- For safety reasons, make sure that children only sign the letter using their first name.
- Collect the letters and make sure that students have included their two reasons of why veterans are important. Also, make sure that the letters are appropriate and are only signed using the child’s first name.
- Send or hand deliver the letters to an agency that serves veterans, such as a Veteran’s hospital.



<p><b>Closure:</b> Tell students that they are going to make the veterans who receive these letters very happy. Explain to students that although Veteran’s Day is a special day set aside to honor our veterans, we should still honor them every day and thank them every chance that we get. Encourage students to call and thank the veterans that they know personally (grandfathers, uncles, moms and dads, etc.)</p>	2 mins
---	--------

**For younger students doing “Let me Introduce My Veteran”**

**Letter to be Sent Home:** Send this home perhaps in the late middle of October to give parents and students enough time to research and gather pictures

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a country we will be celebrating Veteran’s Day on November 11th. In our classroom we will be learning about Veteran’s Day and why we celebrate it. We will be exploring some critical questions: *What is a veteran and why do we honor them, what can we learn from veterans, why is this day important to our country?*

Our class will be creating our very own, “Wall of Pride” to thank our very own veterans. Please take some time to identify a relative or family friend who has served in our country’s Armed Forces. Please help you child to complete the information sheet with the veteran’s name, how the veteran is related/connected to him/her, branch of service, and which war the veteran participated in. If possible please send in a photo of your child’s special veteran. I will photocopy each photograph, and return the original to you. It can be a photo during military duty, or a more recent photo. Each child will be designing their very own start to honor their veteran, and with will be attached the information sheet and photo. All of the children will share what they know about their veteran with the class. Our display will be in the hallway next week, so if you can, please stop by to view our “Wall of Pride”.

Thank you so much for your help - we couldn’t do it without you! Enjoy some family research and digging through photo albums! What a wonderful way to say “thank you” to our veterans, both living and deceased.



Please return the information sheet  
soon as possible, but before \_\_\_\_\_

and photograph with your student as

Sincerely,

## Let Me Introduce My Veteran !

**My name is** \_\_\_\_\_

**My veteran's name is** \_\_\_\_\_

**He/She is my** \_\_\_\_\_  
(ex. mother, father, grandfather, aunt, neighbor, friend,  
etc.)

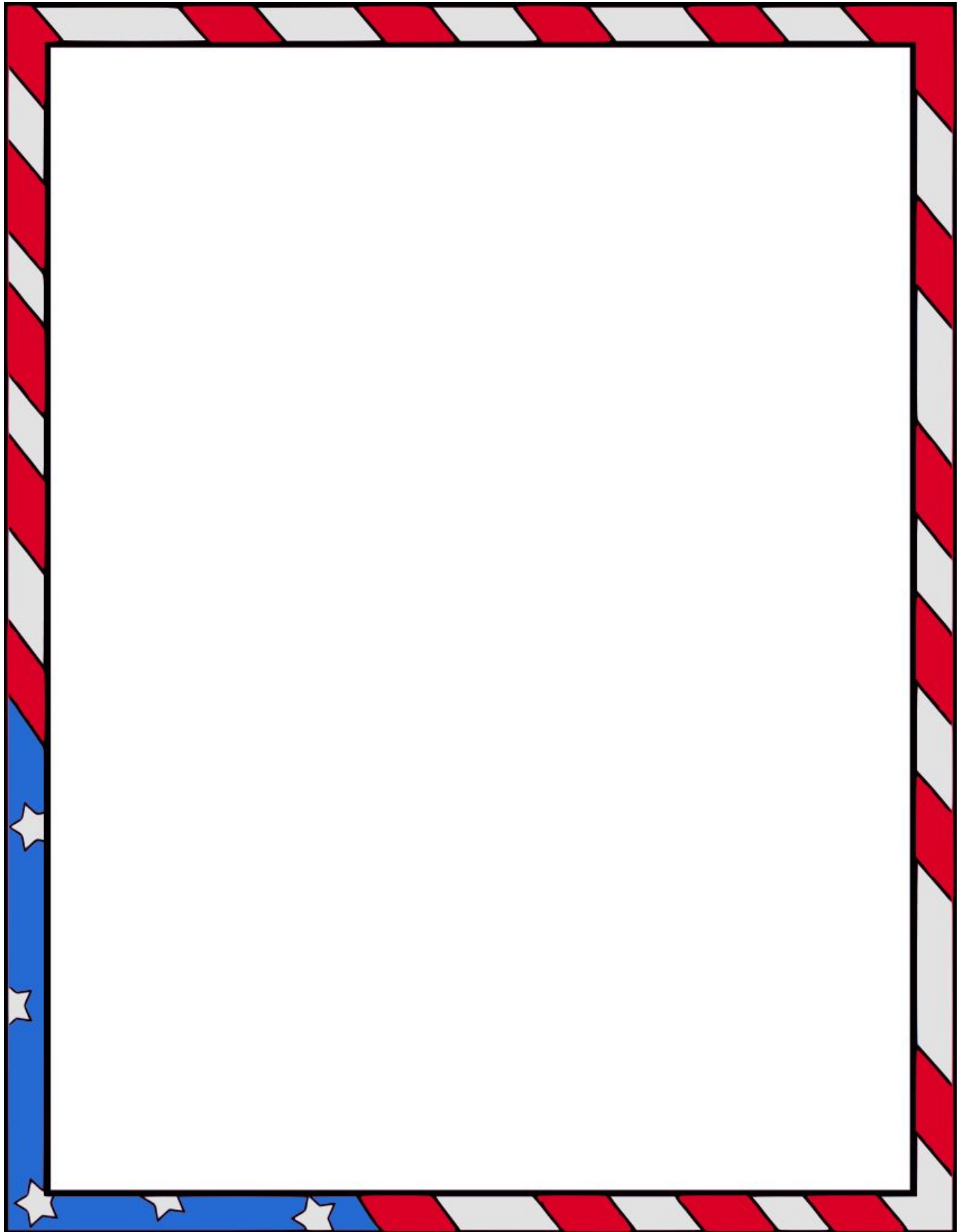
**He/She served in the** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard)

**This is when my veteran served:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
( name of war)

# Thank You For Serving!







**Educator Reflections:**

(Please reflect on and answer the following)

How did this lesson go?	
What were some of the challenges?	
What issues came up that you were not anticipating?	
How did your lesson meet your original learning goals?	
If you could change one thing about your lesson, what would it be?	