

Veterans Day

The background of the entire image is a digital camouflage pattern in shades of grey and blue. In the center, there are two tan-colored dog tags. The top tag has the word "ADD" printed on it. A silver metal chain with small beads is draped over the dog tags. To the left and right of the dog tags are two small American flags, each with a gold-colored metal handle. The flags are partially visible, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes.

Amanda Bennett

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unit Studies — The Easy Way!	7
Getting Started	9
Introduction	11
Learning Plan	12
Favorite Books	13
Lesson Plans, Day 1–Day 5	16
Additional Internet Sites	33
Appendix	38
West Point Cadets Prayer	
Preamble to the Constitution	
Patriotic Obligation	
A Congressman’s Prayer	
Benjamin Franklin -- Motion for Prayers	
Other Notable Speeches	
Veterans Day Notebooking Pages	48

INTRODUCTION

Veterans Day — what does it mean to you? The history of this holiday may be unknown to many of us, and yet it exists because of the strength and convictions of generations past that we should remember our veterans and their sacrifices for our peace and protection. There was a price paid for the freedom we enjoy, and this freedom still needs our protection.

While we enjoy peace, it is with an understanding that this peace has been bought with the efforts of our veterans, and this holiday can help us express our gratitude for their efforts and beliefs and sacrifices.

On this holiday, we honor our veterans — those in the military serve in all kinds of jobs — soldiers, doctors, nurses, pilots, engineers, astronauts, and so much more. They all work to protect and defend America, and we should be grateful.

I heard recently that there is a shortage of military buglers to play “Taps” at military funerals — because so many of our military veterans are passing away. While our children haven’t really been exposed to a “war” as we think of it, they do need an appreciation for those who have bravely served.

Use this week-long study to become familiar with veterans — their sacrifices and courage. Learn more about the American military system — how it protects us today and what is happening with our defense. Use this opportunity to learn more about the various organizations that help support our veterans — the Veterans Administration (VA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

This holiday has special significance to many members of our families and friends. Though often quiet about their service, these people have a wealth of information that they might be willing to share with our students about their service, training, and ideas — if asked. By learning more about the people and their participation, we can carry on the tradition and remembrance with pride.

With this holiday, let’s bring out the flag and applaud our veterans. Let us teach these things to our children, so that we never take our freedom and liberty for granted. All of our veterans deserve our appreciation and remembrance. It is now the next generation’s responsibility to protect and defend our country, our God-given rights, and our freedoms.

Learning Plan for the Veterans Day Study

The following includes a brief summary of the lessons that we will use for this week-long study of Veterans Day. Remember, these learning steps are just suggestions. You don't have to follow these steps exactly as they appear — stay flexible. Your family may become fascinated with all of the various stories about the history of our military and study just that section for five days! That's OK! Enjoy it!

DAY ONE: WHAT IS A VETERAN?

Today we will launch our Veterans Day study by looking at what it means to be an American military veteran. We will investigate the definition and the contribution of these patriots.

DAY TWO: HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

How did Veterans Day begin? Why do we celebrate this holiday on November 11th, and has this always been the date of remembrance? Today will present an opportunity to learn more about the holiday and its history.

DAY THREE: OUR ARMED FORCES

The American military system is a complex yet effective organization. We will spend today taking a brief glimpse at the structure of the system and its history.

DAY FOUR: FLANDERS FIELDS

The name "Flanders Fields" is a famous poem that describes a special place in Europe as well as in the hearts of military people. We will spend some time today studying this poem and its meaning and learning how it captures some of those hard-to-describe feelings that we all share about our soldiers.

DAY FIVE: SACRIFICING ALL FOR OUR FREEDOM

When a soldier does his or her job, they do it to protect our lives, country, and freedoms. They are prepared to sacrifice everything, and today we will try to gain a better understanding of this sacrifice in appreciation of their efforts and commitment.

You'll need to gather:

- A blank notebook for each child to use as a Veterans Day Journal
- Family albums from both Mom and Dad's families
- An American flag to fly this week
- Some of the books that you choose from the book list for this unit

VETERANS DAY – Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Veterans Day Journal:

**“Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what it cost . . . ”**
Joseph Hopkinson, from “Hail Columbia,” 1798

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Veterans Day Journal**. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Word Central](#)

veteran
defend
serve
soldier



Patriots

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up the American patriot, **Theodore Roosevelt**. Why is he considered an American patriot? Write or narrate a paragraph about President Roosevelt in your Veterans Day Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Theodore Roosevelt](#) and [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

Read and Discover

Follow the directions and make sure to write or narrate your answers in your Veterans Day Journal.

1. Look up **military** and **veteran** in a dictionary. Read the definitions and talk about what a military veteran is in America.
2. Do you know a veteran? Is there someone in your family or perhaps a friend of your family that served in the American military? List these veterans in your Veterans Day Journal.
3. Using an encyclopedia or book, find out what an American military uniform looks like. Draw one of these uniforms in your Journal and describe when this uniform was used. It can be an American Revolutionary uniform, a uniform of an American soldier in one of the World Wars, or any other American uniform. Color the uniform.

Resource

[The Teddy Bear Story](#)

VETERANS DAY – Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Veterans Day Journal:

“The liberties of our country, the freedom of our civil constitution, are worth defending at all hazards; and it is our duty to defend them against all attacks. We have received them as a fair inheritance from our worthy ancestors: they purchased them for us with toil and danger and expense of treasure and blood, and transmitted them to us with care and diligence.”

Samuel Adams, 1771

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Veterans Day Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Dictionary.com](#)

**veteran
service
military
commitment**



Patriots

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up the American patriot, **Theodore Roosevelt**. Why is he considered an American patriot? Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Theodore Roosevelt](#) and [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

Read and Discover

Using library books, encyclopedias, or Internet sites, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, encyclopedia, web site).

1. Write a paragraph that describes what an American military veteran is in your own words.
2. Who do you know that is a veteran? Ask your family and friends for their suggestions. Make a list of these veterans.
3. Develop a set of three interview questions that you would use when talking to a veteran about his or her service. What would you like to know?

Resource

[Biography of Theodore Roosevelt](#)