

Patriotic Holidays



Amanda Bennett

UNIT STUDY ADVENTURES (USA) End User License Agreement ("License")

READ THIS END USER LICENSE AGREEMENT ("License") CAREFULLY BEFORE PURCHASING, DOWNLOADING, OR INSTALLING ANY UNIT STUDY ADVENTURES PRODUCT. DOWNLOADING, INSTALLING, OR USING THIS PRODUCT CONSTITUTES AN AGREEMENT TO ABIDE AND BE BOUND BY EACH AND ALL OF THE TERMS OF THIS LICENSE.

This Unit Study Adventures (USA) product purchased by download, CD-ROM or online updates ("Original Product"), printed materials and on-line or electronic documentation relating to the Original Product ("Manuals"), and all copies, reproductions and derivative works relating to or created from the Original Product (individually and collectively, "Unit Study Adventures Product" are copyrighted and protected works belonging to Amanda Bennett and published by Southern Hodgepodge, LLC (individually and collectively, "Licensor"). All rights to the USA Product, other than the limited use rights granted in this Agreement, are specifically reserved and held to and by Licensor.

Use of USA Products is governed by the terms of this End User License Agreement ("License") and any related USA Multi-User License Agreements ("Site Licenses") or private agreements in writing between Licensor and third parties. USA Products are sold and distributed for use by authorized end users ("Permitted Users") according to the terms of the License only. Any person accessing or using USA Products is a "User" bound by this License. Non-permitted uses by Users who are not also Permitted Users constitutes an actionable breach and violation of this License. Unauthorized use, reproduction, copying, sharing, sale, transfer or distribution of USA Products is prohibited.

1. Limited Use License. All use of USA Products is subject to this License, relevant terms of use, and any applicable Site Licenses (collectively, "Other Applicable Agreements"), the terms of which are hereby incorporated into this License by reference as if fully set forth herein. USA Products may be used by Permitted Users only. A "Permitted User" is (a) an individual who has purchased one or more USA Products, (b) an individual who receives one or more unopened, properly purchased USA Products as a gift, (c) individuals who receive licensed copies of USA Products pursuant to a valid Site License, or (d) immediate family members of individuals mentioned in (a), (b) or (c) who also share a residence with such individual. Licensor hereby grants each Permitted User a limited, non-exclusive license to download, save, install and utilize one (1) copy of the purchased USA Products for personal use by the Permitted User and members of the Permitted User's immediate family only. USA Products may be installed on one (1) or more computers or electronic devices belonging to or under the personal control of the Permitted User, provided that the relevant USA Product is used on no more than one (1) computer or electronic device at any given time. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, a USA Product may be installed and/or used on more than one (1) computer or electronic device simultaneously only if all simultaneous users are siblings and the minor children of a Permitted User who are using the USA Product for simultaneous private homeschooling study or review. Downloading, installation and/or use of USA Products constitutes the user's acceptance of and consent to be bound by this License, all Other Applicable Agreements and applicable law.

2. No Duplication or Resale. Users may make one (1) copy of each USA Product purchased for archival purposes only ("Archival Copy"). Aside from the Archival Copy, Users may not duplicate, copy, photocopy, reproduce, modify, translate, disassemble, distribute, derive or edit source code, or create derivative works based on USA Products, and may not remove any copyright or other notices placed on or in USA Products. Users may not install USA Products on additional computers or electronic devices or make copies of USA Products for purposes of sharing them with additional users other than (a) members of a Permitted User's immediate family who share a residence with the Permitted User, or (b) as permitted by the express terms of a Site License or Other Applicable Agreement between the copier and Licensor. Permitted Users subject to Other Agreements which permit production of additional copies of USA Products may make and/or distribute only the limited number of copies permitted by those Other Applicable Agreements. Failure to comply with the terms of this paragraph constitutes a material breach of this License resulting in immediate, automatic termination of the License, and may subject breaching individuals and entities to civil and/or criminal liability.

3. No Sharing, Transfer or Resale. This License and UNIT STUDY ADVENTURES Products purchased in connection therewith are personal to the original Permitted User(s) and may not be copied, shared or transferred to third parties except as expressly permitted by this License and Other Applicable Agreements, if any. Users may not sell, rent, lease, license, loan, or transfer the USA Products, copies of the USA Products or use of the USA Products to any other person or entity except as expressly permitted by this License or Other Applicable Agreements, if any. Users may not use or exploit part or all of any USA Product for any commercial purpose or in any group educational setting outside the Permitted User's home or individual homeschool without the advance written consent of Licensor. Users are prohibited from selling or reselling USA Products, including without limitation "used," partially used or previously owned USA Products. **Resale of UNIT STUDY ADVENTURES Products without the advance written consent of Licensor constitutes a material breach of this License.**

4. Termination. This License is effective until terminated. Users may terminate the License at any time by (a) destroying or erasing all hard copies of USA Products and (b) removing all USA Products from the User's computer(s), electronic devices and backup drive(s), provided that subsequent purchase, repurchase, installation, reinstallation, and/or use of USA Products constitutes the User's renewed agreement to be bound and abide by this License. Licensor reserves the sole discretion to terminate this License with respect to any User(s) who fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this License and Other Applicable Agreements ("Breaching Users"). Breaching Users must destroy their copies of USA Products and remove USA Products from their computer(s), electronic devices and backup drive(s) immediately upon receipt of notice that Licensor has terminated their License to use the USA Products.

5. Ownership of UNIT STUDY ADVENTURES Products. All ownership rights and title to USA Products, including without limitation copyright, trademark and other intellectual property rights, are the sole property of Licensor and subject to publishing contracts with Unit Studies by Amanda Bennett, LLC. USA Products are protected by the laws of the United States, international laws, treaties and conventions, and other applicable laws. All rights are reserved. USA Products may also contain licensed or protected materials belonging to third parties and used by Licensor with permission from third-party owners ("Third-Party Content"). In the event of any violation of this License or applicable law, the owners of Third-Party Content may enforce their rights separately from or in connection with Licensor.

6. Limited Warranty and Disclaimer of Warranties. Except for the limited warranty contained below, Licensor expressly disclaims any and all warranties on USA Products to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law. USA PRODUCTS ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF CONDITION, DEFECT, USE, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. User accepts all risk associated with or arising out of downloading, installation, use and performance USA Products, provided that Licensor warrants that the USA Products shall be free from material defects in material and workmanship at the time of purchase ("Covered Defects"). In the event a Permitted User provides Licensor with notice of a verifiable Covered Defect, Licensor will either (a) correct the Covered Defect, (b) provide the Permitted User with a replacement product or similar product of equal or lesser value, or (c) refund the Permitted User's purchase price, at Licensor's sole option and discretion. Licensor will not correct or warrant any defect, including without limitation Covered Defects, reported by persons or entities who cannot verify their identity as Permitted Users. THE FOREGOING REPRESENTS THE SOLE, EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR THE LIMITED WARRANTY SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH. EXCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS CONTAINED IN THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY TO THE EXTENT PROHIBITED BY APPLICABLE LAW. INDIVIDUALS' RIGHTS MAY VARY BY JURISDICTION.

7. Limitation of Liability. LICENSOR DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR THE ACCURACY, INACCURACY, LEGALITY, RELIABILITY, OPERABILITY, FUNCTIONALITY, AVAILABILITY AND CONTENT OF USA PRODUCTS. LICENSOR DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY, ARISING OUT OF, RESULTING FROM, OR RELATING TO USA PRODUCTS OR ANY PERSON DISPLAYING, UPLOADING, DOWNLOADING, INSTALLING, ACCESSING OR USING USA PRODUCTS. LICENSOR DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR ERRORS, OMISSIONS, SUSPENSION, DELETION, MISDELIVERY OR UNAVAILABILITY OF COMPUTER HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO ANY PERSON OR ENTITY. LICENSOR WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ACTUAL, DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM OR ARISING OUT OF (A) USE, MISUSE OR LACK OF USE OF USA PRODUCTS, (B) MATERIAL, INFORMATION, ADVICE, GOODS OR SERVICES LEARNED, PURCHASED OR OBTAINED THROUGH OR AS A RESULT OF USA PRODUCTS, OR (C) ANY OTHER CAUSE, EFFECT, ACTION, CONSEQUENCE OR DAMAGE NOT DIRECTLY CAUSED BY OR RESULTING FROM THE WILLFUL MISCONDUCT OF LICENSOR. EXCLUSIONS AND DISCLAIMERS CONTAINED IN THIS LIMITATION OF LIABILITY DO NOT APPLY TO THE EXTENT PROHIBITED BY APPLICABLE LAW. THE RIGHTS OF USERS MAY VARY BY JURISDICTION.

8. Export Controls. USA Products may not be exported or downloaded to or into any country or territory (a) to which the United States has embargoed goods or (b) where USA Products are prohibited by applicable laws. Purchasing, downloading and installing USA Products constitutes the User's agreement to the terms of this paragraph, as well as a representation and warranty that the User is not located in, under the control of or a resident of any such country or territory.

9. Equitable Remedies. All Users hereby agree that Licensor would be irreparably damaged if the terms of this License Agreement were not specifically enforced, and further agree that Licensor shall be entitled to file for, request and obtain any and all available legal and/or equitable remedies to prevent, enforce and redress breaches of this License without bond, security, or proof of damages, even if similar damages would not be available to the opposing party. In the event litigation is brought in connection with this License Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover from the other party all the costs, attorneys' fees and other expenses incurred by such prevailing party in the litigation. A party need not recover an award of money damages to be considered a "prevailing party" for purposes of this paragraph.

10. Modifications. Licensor reserves the sole, discretionary right to update, modify or change this License and Other Applicable Agreements at any time, with or without cause or advance notice. Updates, changes, modifications, additions, supplements and deletions to and from the terms and conditions of this License and Other Applicable Agreements are effective upon implementation. Downloading, installing and using USA Products following changes to the License or Other Applicable Agreements constitutes the User's acceptance of any and all such changes.

11. General Terms. This License, together with any Other Applicable Agreements, represents the only, final, complete and exclusive understanding between User(s) and Licensor and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous oral or written agreements. In the event of any conflict or disagreement between this License and Other Applicable Agreements, the terms of this License will control. User and Licensor have no relationships, agreements, and User has no rights relating to USA Products, except as expressly stated in this License. This License may only be modified by a written instrument approved in writing or executed by an authorized representative of Licensor which specifically states that it modifies this License. This License was written in and will be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. User agrees to submit to the personal jurisdiction of the Federal or state courts located in Texas for purposes of any legal action commenced under or arising out of this License, Other Applicable Agreements or applicable laws, as well as actions arising out of or relating to any USA Products. Nothing in this License will be interpreted to require the commission of an illegal act or a violation of applicable law. If any conflict arises between this License and applicable law the law will prevail, the relevant provisions of the License will be deleted, modified or limited to the extent necessary to comply with law and all other provisions of the License will remain in full force and effect. Notices must be made in writing. Licensor may provide valid, effective notice to Users by posting or broadcasting notices on Licensor's website or related websites owned and operated by either or both Licensors. Notices posted on websites are deemed given when posted. Failure to enforce any provision of this License does not and will not constitute a waiver of the right to enforce the same or any other provision against the same or any other User or third party in any subsequent situation. Any provisions which are reasonably required in order to fully enforce this License will survive its termination. All rights reserved.

12. Acceptance by User. Each User understands and agrees to each and every one of the terms of this License and Other Applicable Agreements as if the User had signed a written document containing the same.

Find more fun-to-use learning tools at UnitStudy.com.

© 2025 Amanda Bennett

Published by Southern Hodgepodge, LLC
123 Mali Drive, Blairsville, GA 30512

All Rights Reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced or used in any form without written permission from the publisher. **The original purchaser is hereby granted permission to print the pages for use with the original purchaser's children.**

This published work may contain facts, views, opinions, statements, recommendations, hyperlinks, references, websites, advertisements and other content and links or references to external sources (collectively, "Content") not owned or controlled by AMANDA BENNETT or Southern Hodgepodge, LLC (individually and collectively, "Owner and Publisher") This Content does not necessarily reflect the views, opinions or recommendations of Owner and Publisher, and any reliance upon such Content is taken at the user's sole risk. Owner and Publisher, along with the individual contributors, have made reasonable efforts to include accurate, current, "family-friendly" Content, but Owner and Publisher make no warranties or representations as to the accuracy, safety or value of Content contained, published, displayed, uploaded, downloaded or distributed through or as part of this publication and assumes no liability or responsibility for the content of linked or referenced sources or for errors or omissions in Content. Users are advised that online content, and the user's experience, may change during use or over time, and are strongly advised to use discernment and wisdom when considering advice and recommendations made in this or any other published work. Owner and Publisher accept no responsibility for the actions of third parties or for Content provided, uploaded, linked or posted by third parties.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The "NIV" and "New International Version" trademarks are registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica. Use of either trademark requires the permission of Biblica.

***This book is dedicated to
those who have risked and
sacrificed everything for the
life, liberty, and pursuit of
happiness that all
Americans enjoy.***



Table of Contents

Unit Studies — The Easy Way	7
Getting Started	9
Introduction	11
 Memorial Day	 13
Introduction	
Learning Plan Overview	
Favorite Books	
Lesson Plans, Day 1–Day 5	
Additional Internet Sites	
 Flag Day	 40
Introduction	
Learning Plan Overview	
Favorite Books	
Lesson Plans, Day 1–Day 5	
Additional Internet Sites	
 Independence Day	 65
Introduction	
Learning Plan Overview	
Favorite Books	
Lesson Plans, Day 1–Day 5	
Internet Sites	
 Veterans Day	 91
Introduction	
Learning Plan Overview	
Favorite Books	
Lesson Plans, Day 1–Day 5	
Additional Internet Sites	
 Appendix	 119
West Point Cadets Prayer	
Preamble to the Constitution	
Patriotic Obligation	
A Congressman's Prayer	
Benjamin Franklin -- Motion for Prayers	
George Washington -- Speech Delivered to His Army	
Other Notable Speeches	
 Patriotic Holidays Notebook Pages	 133

UNIT STUDIES -- THE EASY WAY!

Welcome to Amanda Bennett's easy-to-use unit studies written in a cross-curricular approach about many interesting and important topics. Using simplicity and readily-available resources to enhance the learning process, your children can learn about these topics in ways never before possible. Unit studies allow students to use a natural learning process -- one that is so familiar to us as we become adults, and yet is far removed from textbooks, which are full of concentrated and condensed facts and figures.

Using these studies, your children will learn about a particular topic, covering the science, history, geography, art, and any other areas of study that apply to the topic. For example, while working on the **Patriotic Holidays** studies, your children will investigate the history of America, its amazing Founding Fathers and the brave people that took up the cause to win our freedom. They will learn about our country's brave soldiers that have defended American freedoms over the centuries, and how to honor their bravery and sacrifice.

The **Patriotic Holidays Unit Studies** consist of one-week unit studies for each of the four main patriotic American holidays. There are one-week studies with daily lesson plans for these holidays:

Memorial Day (May)
Flag Day (June 14th)
Independence Day (July 4th)
Veterans Day (November 11th)

These unit studies make learning a fascinating and thought-provoking adventure, which is the way that learning SHOULD be -- life-long learners are successful, inquisitive, and engaging, contributing so much to our world. Let's face it -- many people would love to give up their dry and fact-filled textbooks to try unit studies, but don't have the time to do the research and/or preparation or the confidence to try a new method of learning.

I understand these problems and hesitations all too well. As we considered educating our own children using unit studies, we had the same questions. Where do we begin, how do I structure the study, what do I cover, how do I record the work? This series of books is a product of this adventure -- designed to make your path simpler and your load lighter, while guiding your students along a successful road of learning.

Written with you and your family in mind, you will know what to do each day; what to cover; and what is important to study about America's patriotic holidays. The research and preparation have been done for you. The daily plan and assignments are here, ready for immediate use. You will find that this guide uses the Internet as a primary resource. This has been done for many reasons,

among which include the wealth of information now available online for in-depth studies, the ease of accessing this information for most parents and teachers, as well as the fact that it is affordable and much simpler to use than numerous trips to the library or bookstore.

This book is divided into four separate one-week unit studies. Designed for all ages from early elementary through adult, each day has a basic structured learning plan for Elementary Grades (**Lower Level**) and one for Jr./Sr. High Grades (**Upper Level**). Depending on the ages and needs of your children, you can choose to use all or just a few of the daily assignments. For example, a six-year-old student might be assigned only one or two spelling words and perhaps just one of the Read and Discover questions, while a ten-year-old student might do most of the **Lower Level** assignments for each day. The same holds true for Jr./Sr. High school students. While most high school juniors or seniors should be able to complete all of the daily assignments on the **Upper Level**, a fourteen year old might not be ready to handle that much work in a day. Use these lessons as a tool, and customize them to fit your family and your children's needs. What doesn't get completed this year can be left for further study next year.

The Daily Learning Plan is comprised of the following basic components:

- **Today's Passage** -- to be read, copied, and perhaps even memorized.
- **Words of Wisdom (WOW)** -- spelling/vocabulary words and their definitions to be written, studied, and learned.
- **Patriots** -- Important American patriots will be investigated during the study.
- **Read and Discover** -- questions that must be researched and answered as each topic is explored.

Getting Started

Ready to Begin the Easy Way of Using Unit Studies? Here We Go! *

It's about time we had some unit studies that weren't too complicated but are complete and also fun! With a one-week unit study on such interesting topics, learning can be enjoyable and thorough, sparking new interests and ideas for generations to come.

1. Take a few minutes to look through the study and the list of **Favorite Books** included in the Introduction section of the holiday study. These books are just suggestions – you do NOT need any of these books to complete the studies! However, the suggestions can be helpful and very interesting to go with the study. Do you already have some of the titles in your family library? Note other books from the list that you think might be interesting, and request them from the library for this study.
2. I recommend that each child create a **Patriotic Journal**. You can use a new spiral notebook or three-ring notebook and loose-leaf paper. They will use their Journals to work on the lessons and drawings, display photographs of their projects and much more. In the beginning of the study, let them decorate the outside of their journals with stickers, drawings, or other fun items that personalize their **Patriotic Journal**.
3. Collect some materials to begin a **Patriotic Family Album**. This album will contain a collection of your family memories of these studies -- photos of the projects and papers, as well as any souvenirs that your family collects along the way. Gather together family picture albums, portraits, and other loose photographs and keep them handy during the study. The intention is to tie in other family members who may be active or veteran military from several generations. You can use a three-ring binder and notebook paper, or a scrapbook, or a regular photo album.
4. Find your family's American flag. If you don't have one, this would be a good time to consider investing in one for your family.
5. As you prepare to use these studies, let family members know what you are studying. Perhaps they've got things to contribute or life stories to share with the younger generation. These stories and memories are priceless, and by sharing them throughout these holidays, the children will always remember them and will be able to share them with generations to come. You can learn together as a family, while making priceless memories to treasure for years to come. Imagine celebrating Independence Day with the knowledge of what our independence has REALLY cost many generations of young Americans.

6. Take lots of photos, share your own patriotic memories, see the memorials in your area, and enjoy the freedom of being an American, while teaching the responsibilities that come with those freedoms.
7. **How can you use this study with several different ages of students?** Allow flexibility in your study. Pick and choose the topics that you know are right for your child – those that match with his/her abilities and interests. For example, a 1st grader doesn't need to work on all of the **Lower Level** spelling & vocabulary words – perhaps just a few will be sufficient to let them learn and expand their confidence. For older students, I have included additional resources at the end of each week for further reading, just for those who are looking for greater challenge in this study.

Using AI Resources With This Study

by Amanda Bennett

As we have worked to create excellent and comprehensive learning resources for every one of our unit studies, we have taken a first step into navigating the world of artificial intelligence (AI) as a component of education. Because AI is already typically a part of many traditional school approaches, we have explored various opportunities to incorporate it in a way that is safe and effective for you and your family.

And we are so glad we did! AI, used well, can add a valuable layer of exploration for curious learners. You'll find that throughout this study, we include Ask AI prompts to use with resources like Google Gemini, ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Perplexity and other AI options.

You will notice that we use AI only as an enhancement to learning, never the primary resource. **We will always recommend books as the spine of any study.**

Two things to remember to ensure AI learning is safe and beneficial:

1. It is important that a parent *always supervise* a child's use of an AI chatbot, to help guide their learning and ensure a safe experience.
2. When your child wants to ask his/ her own questions of the chatbot, make sure that you help create a kid-friendly AI prompt, giving specific instructions to the chatbot - including asking for age appropriate answers for your child's age.

"I am 7 years old. What is the origin of Memorial Day?"

And now, let's turn the page and begin this learning adventure with your child!

Introduction

America – a word that thrills my heart when it is mentioned, a name that we should all hold dear in our hearts – and remember what it really is to be an **AMERICAN**! Our country has been through so much in recent years, threatened by dark forces across the globe, and rising to face and challenge these threats time after time. We have so much to be thankful for, and so many opportunities to show our thanks and display our patriotism. With four American patriotic holidays, we've got wonderful opportunities to share this pride and knowledge of American history with our children – the future of America.

Written with this in mind, *Patriotic Holidays* uses a unit study approach to simplify the concepts while exposing the students to so many important ideas from American history. Covering Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day, each holiday study takes one week and can involve the whole family.

In all of my travels and talks with families and children across the country, I have noticed that many of our children have never been exposed in a memorable way to the idea of patriotism — of pride in our country. Many families today don't make a regular practice of flying the American flag on special American holidays.

So many of the children that I talk to don't know how to honor the American flag, not knowing that our flag should never touch the ground or that there are special rules for displaying the flag. When I think of all of the stories that I've heard over the years about our flag and what it has meant to our soldiers in battle, I am saddened to see that the younger generation is unaware of what the flag means or, thanks to those soldiers, what freedoms we enjoy in America.

As a parent, I want to make sure that we teach our children about these important things — about the honor and the sacrifice of others in generations past and in those currently serving in the military, who purchased our freedoms and then protected them with their own lives. I want to renew our love of country, appreciate all of the freedoms that we enjoy, and remember the price that has been paid by brave Americans in generations past and present.

These four studies have been created to do just that in an enjoyable and interesting format. For the week before each holiday, the family can work together -- learning and reading and sharing. By the time each holiday arrives, it should have a whole new meaning, and family memories can be made that will last a lifetime.

While preparing for these special days through this study, you and your family will learn more about American history in a lively and interesting way. Here are some of the things covered in the studies:

- Overview of American history — the wars and events that have created and protected our independence
- Study the lives of the patriots and founding fathers — using their biographies to better understand the times, the issues surrounding their battles for freedom, and their sacrifices
- Gain a better understanding of our freedoms and rights — guaranteed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as written by our founding fathers
- Learn about our country's patriotic symbols and their history
- Appreciation of God's gifts and blessings on our country

In this day and age, there are so many children who are unaware of the real meaning of these holidays. They think that Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer, and many are even unaware of Flag Day or Veterans Day. These young Americans need to know the reasons for these holidays that were created by Americans for Americans to remember their history and their heroes. We need to bring back the patriotic holidays, celebrate them, and remember their true meanings.

We'll be learning all about America's history and patriots, her founding fathers and brave soldiers, her flag and her heroes — remembering that we are, indeed, "One Nation Under God."

Come along and join us on the journey, and may God continue to bless America!

Blessings,
Amanda

Memorial Day



Memorial Day

Memorial Day, a day when we take time to remember all of the people that have given their lives for American freedom. They gave up promising futures, families, hopes, and dreams — for all of us. Let us use this day as an opportunity to honor them, remember them, and learn more about their sacrifices.

Looking back on my childhood days, I recall that Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day. This was a day when families would gather, clean the cemetery plots of family members, plant flowers, and place small flags on the graves of those family members that had died defending America. People would “decorate” their graves, to honor their memory. This was also a time for a family picnic and a parade in town. It was a family time — a treasured time.

When we saw flags waving in the breeze all over the neighborhood, we were proud to be Americans. I would like for American children to experience this same pride and appreciate what it has taken to keep that flag flying.

As time has gone by, these traditions have often been left behind and forgotten. Now, if you ask many children what Memorial Day is about, they remark, “The day the pool opens!” or “The beginning of summer!” It is high time that we reclaim the memorial — the remembrance of those who fought so proudly so that we can be free to enjoy our precious God-given liberties.

With that in mind, let’s work on bringing the focus back to the intent of this holiday. We can do this in a way that will open the children’s eyes to the liberties that they enjoy and show them that these liberties have been protected at all costs. We will briefly learn about the history of the holiday, some of the wars that Americans have fought in, and ways that we can honor the great people who lost their lives defending our lives and liberty.

Take a moment and make sure that you can find your family flag. Try to fly it for each day of this week as you learn about and CELEBRATE these patriots. Let’s put MEMORIAL back in Memorial Day, a family holiday!



Learning Plan for the Memorial Day Study

The following includes a brief summary of the Learning Steps that we will use for this week-long study of Memorial 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 around the origins of Memorial Day and work on that for the full five days! That's OK! Enjoy it!

DAY ONE: THE FIRST MEMORIAL DAY

This day will be spent learning more about the first Memorial Day — it's interesting origin as well as the many people and towns that lay claim to celebrating the very first Memorial Day!

DAY TWO: EARLY AMERICAN WARS

On this day, we can focus on the wars that American patriots engaged in during the infancy of this country. This will include the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

DAY THREE: RECENT AMERICAN WARS

Covering briefly the following wars, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the more recent wars. We will only touch on each war, and those that served our country during these wars.

DAY FOUR: HOW TO HONOR THEM

This day's focus will include things that we can do to honor these soldiers. We will look at war memorials, and other ways that families can show their respect for these brave people.

DAY FIVE: THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

To wrap up our study, we will learn more about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier — how it originated and what it stands for to Americans. We must never forget their sacrifice.

You'll need to gather:

- A blank notebook for each child to use as a Patriotic Journal
- Family albums from both Mom and Dad's families
- An American flag to fly this week
- Some of the books that are listed in the pages that follow.

Favorite Books

These books are listed to give you some ideas for reading material for this study. The list includes titles that can be used for the student's independent reading or for family read-aloud time. This list was not created for you to locate all of the titles and have your student read all of them! Choose one or two for the student to read and one family read-aloud title to read through the week of Memorial Day. Have the child keep track of the books that they read in their Patriotic Journal.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the United States at War, by June English and Thomas Jones. Published by Scholastic. I recommend this book for use with *Patriotic Holidays*. It is written for grades 3 through adult and gives an interesting and brief summary of each American war, raising their interest without so many details that it would be too distracting for each week-long holiday study.

Johnny Tremain, by Esther Forbes. Published by Yearling Books, for grades 4 and up. A wonderful read-aloud book, about a fourteen-year-old silversmith, his injury, and his experiences during the days before and during the Revolutionary War.

Daughter of Liberty, by Robert M. Quackenbush. Published by Scholastic. This is the story of an incident in the author's great, great, great aunt's life, while serving as a messenger for General Washington. High interest, making it a good candidate for both a family read-aloud or for independent reading.

Rifles for Watie, by Harold Keith. Published by HarperTrophy, for grades 6 and up. The story of a young farm boy that ends up enlisting with both the Union and Confederate forces and chronicles his adventures.

The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War, by Jim Murphy. Published by HMH Books for Young Readers, for grades 4 and up. Interesting collection of diary entries and letters, written by boys younger than sixteen years old, about their experiences as soldiers on both sides of the war.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, by Anne Frank. Published by Pocket Books, for grades 7 and up. The journal entries of a young Jewish girl, as she and her family spent two years hiding from the Germans during World War II.

Elementary Favorite Books

The 18 Penny Goose, by Sally M. Walker. Published by Perfection Learning, for grades K–2. Wonderful story about a girl, her goose, and an incident where the family had to flee ahead of the British.

George Washington's Breakfast, by Jean Fritz. Published by Puffin, for grades 2–4. A charming story about a boy that never gives up until he finds the answers to

his questions. This story is about his quest to discover what George Washington liked to eat for breakfast!

...If You Grew Up with George Washington, by Ruth Belov Gross. Published by Scholastic Paperbacks, for grades 2–6. Answers many of kids' questions about everyday life during the time of George Washington's youth.

Buttons for General Washington, by Peter and Connie Roop. Published by Carolrhoda Books, for grades K–3. Interesting story about a family's spy efforts to help the patriots.

George Washington: Young Leader, by Augusta Stevenson. Published by Aladdin, for grades 3–6. This book tells the story of George Washington's boyhood and the events of his childhood.

Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln, by Jean Fritz. Published by Penguin Young Readers, for grades 1–3. This is the story of the circumstances around Abraham Lincoln as he wrote the "Gettysburg Address."

They Were Strong and Good, by Robert Lawson. Published by Viking, for grades 3–6. The story of one family's past generations and their lives, including family members that fought in the Civil War. Very interesting way to encourage interest in drawing your own family tree.

All Those Secrets of the World, by Jane Yolen. Published by Little Brown and Co., for grades K–2. The author helps children begin to understand what life is like when your father is called away to fight a war.

George Washington's World, by Genevieve Foster. Published by Beautiful Feet, for grades 4 and up. The author wrote this book to present a slice of life from around the world during George Washington's life.



Memorial Day Celebration Ideas

Listed below are just a few ideas for you to consider as you plan your study and make your holiday plans. I suggest that you begin this holiday study the week before Memorial Day and make your plans for the holiday throughout this week. Traditions are so important in the life of a family, and this list that you create and undertake can be the beginning of some fun family traditions!

1. Memorial Day is a day of reflection and appreciation -- for these brave people that gave so much for their country, for us. As Christians, we can thank the Lord for these people and their bravery and commitment. He has guided this country from its earliest days, providing leaders and soldiers and others who have bravely stood up for what is right, no matter what the consequences. Pray that we will all have that same faith in Him when it is time for us to stand up for what is right. Some churches plan prayer services for Memorial Day, and you and your family can offer to help with those preparations.
2. Is there a local war monument in your town? If you don't know, call the local Chamber of Commerce, the town hall, or perhaps the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). The local library is an excellent resource for background material on the local monuments. It is interesting that most towns have monuments or parks that memorialize our war dead, and we pass by them daily without even knowing that they are there or what they represent. Visit the memorials or monuments, taking pictures of the family at the monument for the children's Patriotic Journals and the family Patriotic Album. I still treasure a family photo of all of my siblings and me sitting on top of a row of cannon at a local war memorial, and we weren't even fighting! <smile> We had a wonderful family picnic that day, and the photo brings back those good times and special memories of our exploration of the monuments and my dad explaining what each one of them meant.
3. Plan to help "decorate" the local cemetery, or the family plot at the cemetery. Depending on your town, some cemeteries need help putting flags on the graves and welcome volunteers. If your children have never been in a cemetery, make sure that you explain that they will need to show reverence there — to be quiet, not run, walk carefully, etc. This is a wonderful chance to explain to them that this is another way that we show respect.
4. Many VFW organizations hold a special service and/or flag-raising on Memorial Day. Call to find out the time and place of the ceremony. Explain to your children that there will be men in uniform from many of the wars past, and that they will give speeches about their friends that were killed in the wars. It is a very touching ceremony, and the veterans that are there will appreciate your attendance and respect.
5. Memorial Day is a perfect day to get outside and plant a tree or special plant in honor of our soldiers. Depending on where you live, consider a

dogwood tree, a cherry tree, or perhaps a peony bush (they usually bloom around Memorial Day). As your children grow up and see this tree or bush, they will always remember Memorial Day and its meaning.

6. Last, but not least, a family picnic or cookout is a great addition to your Memorial Day plans. Invite family and friends, pull out the ice cream freezer, and have fun sharing family tales and memories! Bring out the children's Patriotic Journals and your family Patriotic Album and share them with your guests. You might be surprised at how the collection of family photos of past generations of soldiers in your family will bring out even more stories about the wars. Ask your family and friends to collect their photos of family members in the military in preparation for your upcoming Veteran's Day celebration!



Memorial Day – Day One

Raise the American Flag!

The First Memorial Day

This day will be spent learning about the first Memorial Day — it's interesting origin as well as the many people and towns that lay claim to celebrating the very first Memorial Day!

Our Objectives

- Learn about the origins of Memorial Day
- People & towns that claim to have originated Memorial Day
- The first official Memorial Day

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Today, work as a family to collect names, photos, and memories of family members and friends that were soldiers and assemble them in a notebook that we shall call, "The (your family's name) Patriotic Album." Instead of using the original photos, take them to a copy center and arrange them on the copy machine to produce standard size pages that show the photos in a collage that can be included in your album.

Memorial Day – Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your **Patriotic Journal**:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Nathan Hale, 1776, right before his execution

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

soldier

defend

honor

patriot

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Nathan Hale**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please share about Nathan Hale. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Nathan Hale for your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

Look up **Memorial Day** with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, then answer these questions. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please share the origins of Memorial Day:

1. Read and discuss the beginnings of this holiday. Notice that the holiday was originally called Decoration Day. Why?
2. There are many towns & people that claim to have started the tradition — which one was given "official credit" for being the first?
3. Did you read about the first "official" Memorial Day? Where and when was it held?

Resources

Here are a few books that explain Memorial Day and its origins. Check with your local library to see what is available in your area. They are all very basic, explaining the origins of Memorial Day and today's holiday.

Memorial Day (Carolrhoda on My Own Books), by Geoffrey Scott.

Memorial Day (National Holidays), by Helen Frost.



Memorial Day – Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**“Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon;
but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!”**

John Parker, April 19, 1775, to his Minute Men at Lexington

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

sacrifice
liberty
protect
patriot

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Nathan Hale**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Nathan Hale. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about the Origins of Memorial Day.

1. What towns or people claim to have held the “first” Decoration (Memorial) Day? Find at least two towns and describe their claim.
2. Why was the holiday originally called Decoration Day?
3. Where and when was the first “official” Memorial Day observation held?

Memorial Day – Day Two

Raise the American Flag!

Early American Wars

Today we are going to learn a bit of the history of America's early wars. On Memorial Day, we honor all who have died to protect our freedoms, and each War has its own heroes — those men and women that gave their all.

Our Objectives

- Study the basics of the early American wars
- Study key figures that fought in these wars
- Learn the geography involved in these wars

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Are there family stories about any of your relatives that served in the Civil War? Ask relatives if they recall any stories in your family's history. If you live close to the cemeteries where past generations of your family are buried, take a family trip to read the headstone names and dates to see who was alive during the Civil War — possibly who may have served in the Civil War. Record anything that you discover in your family's Patriotic Album.



Memorial Day – Day Two

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations.”

George Washington, “Farewell Address,” 1796

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old.

Please define these words:

war
freedom
battle
fight

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt look up the American patriot, **George Washington**. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about George Washington in your Patriotic Journal.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share about George Washington and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Look up the following wars with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. Then, take time to discuss what you find. *Write or narrate a short story about the Revolutionary War in your Patriotic Journal. When writing your paragraph, think about why Americans fought these wars.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share about these wars and why Americans fought in them:

1. The Revolutionary War
2. The Civil War (also known as the War Between the States)

Resources

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the United States at War, by June English or choose a book on George Washington for today's reading, possibly ***George Washington's Breakfast*** by Jean Fritz or ***George Washington: Young Leader*** by Augusta Stevenson.

Memorial Day – Day Two

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has the right to concentrate your affections. The name AMERICANS, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism.”
George Washington, “Farewell Address,” 1796

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

strategy
battlefield
confront
weaponry

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompts, look up the American patriot, **George Washington**. *In your Journal, explain why you think that he considered an American patriot.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about George Washington and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the main causes of these wars — the reasons that Americans fought in the wars. *Write a paragraph for each war, discussing the main cause for each war.* Make sure that you also write down the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share the causes of each of these wars and why Americans fought in them:

1. Revolutionary War
2. The Civil War (also known as The War Between the States)
3. War of 1812

Memorial Day – Day Three

Raise the American Flag!

Recent American Wars

Today, we will spend some time learning about America's more recent wars. There is much to be learned about these wars, but we will just touch on the basics for this holiday study. Take good notes — we may be studying these topics in more depth later!

Our Objectives

- Learn some of the basic causes of recent American wars
- Study the geography involved in these wars
- Study key figures in the wars

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

As we learn more about Memorial Day and all of the wars where Americans have had to lay down their lives, we should begin to see why it is so important that we honor these people by remembering and keeping their stories alive. Ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, and others about their memories of wars and if they knew any people that were killed in a war. Write down their memories and put these memories together with the soldier lists and photo pages into your family's Patriotic Album.

Memorial Day – Day Three

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“United we stand; divided we fall.”

Patrick Henry, Last Speech, 1799

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old.

Please define these words:

rights
troop
attack
fear

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Paul Revere**. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Paul Revere in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about Paul Revere and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Look up a brief description of each of the following wars with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. Locate some of the countries involved in these wars on a map or globe — France, Germany, Great Britain, and others. Then, take time to discuss what you find. *In your Patriotic Journal, write or narrate a short story that describes why these wars are called “World” wars.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Share about these world wars, the countries involved and why they are called world wars:

1. World War I
2. World War II

Resources

Younger children will find ***All Those Secrets of the World*** by Jane Yolen to be an excellent book about families during World War II. ***Lentil*** by Robert McCloskey and ***The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*** by Gloria Houston are also excellent books for this study.

Memorial Day – Day Three

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it,
to support its Constitution, to obey its laws,
to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."**

William Tyler Page, from "The American's Creed," 1918

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

trench
bombing
holocaust
atrocity

Patriots

Using books, websites, or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Paul Revere**. Can you find the names of others that helped Paul spread the warning about the coming of the British? *In your Journal, write a paragraph that explains why he is considered an American patriot.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. Share Paul Revere resources and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up these wars and find out why America was involved in each one. *Write a paragraph for each war, discussing the main cause for each war.* Make sure that you INCLUDE the source of your information (book, website, etc.). **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. Please share about these wars, the countries involved and why America fought in them.

1. World War I
2. World War II
3. Korean War
4. Vietnam War
5. Persian Gulf War
6. Operation Iraqi Freedom

Resources

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share about these resources: Diary of Anne Frank, Air Raid — Pearl Harbor, Memorial Day Commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery

Memorial Day – Day Four

Raise the American Flag!

Honoring America's Soldiers

This will be a day of discovery, as we find out how we can honor those who died for our country. It is a time of mixed emotions — sadness about their deaths and pride in their actions. Public monuments, cemeteries, or even our own neighborhoods can all make excellent places for us to begin to honor, or memorialize, their lives and their actions.

Our Objectives

- Learn how Americans have honored those killed in wars
- Study some of the famous monuments and their locations
- Plan your family Memorial Day honor adventure

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Today we can create some decorations! I hope that you have an American flag! Some fun decorations to consider include American Flag placemats, bunting that can be draped over the front door or in the house, and hand-colored or computer-generated banners that reflect patriotism. The placemats can be made out of poster board that is cut into placemat size. Have your children draw American flags or other patriotic symbols on them and then cover them with some kind of clear plastic laminate.



Memorial Day – Day Four

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“An American is one who will fight for his freedom and that of his neighbor.” Harold L. Ickes, 1941

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please define these words:

remember
statue
decorate
salute

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Molly Pitcher**. Why is she considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Molly Pitcher in your Patriotic Journal.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share about the American patriot Molly Pitcher.

Read and Discover

Look up each of the following with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. *Then, take time to discuss what you have discovered! Draw a picture of a monument that you have seen in your town or in the encyclopedia. Perhaps the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial would be a good thing to draw in your Patriotic Journal.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share about:

1. Monument
2. Arlington National Cemetery
3. Washington Monument
4. Lincoln Memorial

Resources

Molly Pitcher: Young Patriot by Augusta Stevenson is a fun book to read! **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share these resources:

Arlington National Cemetery

The Lincoln Memorial

The Washington Monument

World War II Memorial

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Memorial Day – Day Four

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth that must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war.” Herbert Hoover, Speech, 1944

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

monument
statue
memorial
salute

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Molly Pitcher**. Why was she on the battlefield? *In your Journal, write a paragraph that explains why she is considered an American patriot.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Why was American patriot Molly Pitcher on the battlefield?

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up these monuments and find out what each one represents. *In your Patriotic Journal, write a paragraph about each of these monuments.* Make sure that you also write down the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about these monuments and what they each represent:

1. Iwo Jima Monument
2. Washington Monument
3. Abraham Lincoln Memorial
4. World War II Memorial
5. Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

Memorial Day – Day Five

Raise the American Flag!

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

During the battles of war, there are times when, sadly, those who are killed cannot be identified. We honor those soldiers with the national monument that is called, “The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.” Today we are going to learn more about this monument, what it stands for, and who it honors.

Our Objectives

- Learn about this monument’s origin and location
- Understand the meaning of being an “unknown” soldier



Memorial Day – Day Five

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"I have not yet begun to fight."

John Paul Jones, 1779

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

tomb
guard
unknown
march

Patriots

Using books, websites of the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **John Paul Jones**. Why do you think that he is considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a story about John Paul Jones, recording it in your Patriotic Journal. Draw a picture of John Paul Jones on his ship.* **Ask AI**

Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about John Paul Jones and why he is an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Look up the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. Find a picture of the tomb and draw what you see in your Patriotic Journal. Then, take time to talk about what you have discovered. **Ask AI**

Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Lower Level Wrap-up

Spend some time looking at and reviewing the Memorial Day pages of the children's Patriotic Journals:

1. Review the **WOWs** by writing them on 3x5 cards and seeing if the child can read and define each word.
2. Talk about the five patriots that they have looked at this week. Do they remember the stories of their patriotism?
3. Have the child talk about their favorite part of this study. Was it the Read and Discover, the Patriots, websites, or a favorite book?
4. Take some time today to work on the family Patriotic Album, working with the children to insert photos and items that they would like to include.

Memorial Day – Day Five

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Our American heritage is threatened as much by our own indifference as by the most unscrupulous office or by the most powerful foreign threat. The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.”

Dwight Eisenhower, 1949

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

tomb
unknown
interment
honor

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **John Paul Jones**. Why do we remember him? *In your Journal, write a paragraph that summarizes why he is considered an American patriot.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share about American patriot, John Paul Jones.

Read and Discover

In your Patriotic Journal, write a paragraph about each of the following, describing their origin and meaning. Can you find the inscription on the tomb? Make sure that you record the source of your information (book, encyclopedia, web site). Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the following.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share about:

1. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
2. The Story of TAPS (the military bugle call)

Upper Level Wrap-up

Looking at your Patriotic Journal, review all of your work for Memorial Day with your parents.

1. Explain your favorite part of this week — your most interesting patriot, hero, and other interesting things that you have learned.
2. Which websites were the most interesting?
3. Write a letter to patients at your regional VA hospital, thanking the veterans for their sacrifices and telling them about your study. They will

appreciate the fact that you remember and appreciate them and all that they and their fellow soldiers did for you!

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please locate a VA facility near (your town). Also, share the National Memorial Day Concert.



Additional Resources

MEMORIAL DAY

Ask AI Prompt: Please share these resources for kids:

Veterans History Project

Holmes' Famous 1884 Memorial Day Speech

General Logan's Memorial Day Proclamation

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Liberty! The American Revolution

WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812

CIVIL WAR (War Between the States)

American Civil War Resources

The Civil War

Women in the Civil War

Gettysburg National Military Park

WORLD WAR I

American Leaders Speak During World War I

World War I Document Archive

WORLD WAR II

National D-Day Memorial

The American Experience – Guts & Glory

What Did You Do in the War, Grandma?

KOREAN WAR

The Korean War

Korean War

THE VIETNAM WAR

Vietnam Online: The American Experience

Vietnam War

The Persian Gulf War

The Gulf War

Commanders of the Gulf War

The War in Afghanistan

Afghanistan -- A Battleground Through the Ages

Operation Tribute to Freedom

The War in Iraq: Operation Iraqi Freedom

War in Iraq

Department of Defense - Iraqi Most Wanted Deck of Playing Cards

Images

WAR MEMORIALS

National World War II Memorial

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Favorite Findings of the Week

It can be helpful to keep track of some of the favorite things you have discovered this week. Use this page to record some of these things for later review and further study.

Books:

People:

Places:

Cool Words:

Family Connections:

Family Project of the Week:

Internet Sites:

Notes:

Flag Day



Flag Day

Red, white and blue — when you hear those words stated together, we automatically think of our flag! It is a patriotic symbol of America, fought for and died for, cared for and appreciated. It is important that we continue to share this knowledge with generations to come, just as it was shared with us. This flag represents the people, places, beliefs, and ideals that this country was founded upon, and all that we aspire to. We need to remember what the flag represents and the people that have risked everything to keep it flying.

What does your child know about the flag? Ask them before you begin this study and then ask them again after Flag Day! I hope that they learn about the history of the flag, Betsy Ross, and Francis Scott Key. Did you know that Mr. Key was an attorney and the father of eleven children? Does your child know why there are fifty stars, and can they say the Pledge of Allegiance?

As a child, I remember flags flying on most homes on Flag Day. Today, in many neighborhoods, Flag Day is forgotten. I would like to see that changed and raise the awareness of this holiday. Did you ever go to a parade as a child and receive a small flag to wave from the sideline? I remember seeing that field of flags being waved up and down the parade route — what a pretty site that was! That was a very special time, and we were very proud to hold those flags. If you haven't done so yet, consider getting your own family flag and putting it on display as frequently as possible. Flag-flying in a neighborhood can be a contagious thing, and it is great to look down our neighborhood now and see Old Glory on many homes.

With this holiday, let's bring the flags out of the back of the coat closet. Let's care for the flag and teach these same concepts to our children. Let's make Flag Day a special day to remember how far this country has come — from thirteen stars to fifty stars, from an upstart young country to a world power. The flag has been there through it all, lifting the spirits of our soldiers and brightening our darkest days with hope. It is now the next generation's responsibility and our patriotic duty to protect this flag. We should all fill with pride when our flag goes by! God bless America!



Learning Plan for the Flag Day Study

The following includes a brief summary of the Learning Steps that we will use for this week-long study of Flag 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 flag and study just that section for five days! That's OK! Enjoy it!

DAY ONE: THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG AND THE FIRST FLAG DAY

We are going to launch our Flag Day study by learning about the holiday's beginnings and the people that helped make it a national holiday. This day will also be spent learning more about the first American flag — why it was created, what it looked like, and the story behind its creation.

DAY TWO: CHANGES TO OUR FLAG

How did the United States Flag go from the original thirteen stars to fifty stars, and what did the flags look like? We will investigate these changes and learn more about our National Anthem and its author.

DAY THREE: THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First published in the "Youth Companion" in 1892, the Pledge of Allegiance is our oath of loyalty to the American flag. We will study the history of the pledge, changes and additions, and memorization of the pledge.

DAY FOUR: PATRIOTIC MUSIC AND PATRIOTIC SYMBOLS

Today we will study some of our patriotic songs and their authors. We are also going to look at other patriotic symbols — like the Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, and Mount Rushmore.

DAY FIVE: RESPECT FOR THE FLAG

We will study the rules of respect for the flag that are so important. We should respect the flag and those who have protected it on our behalf.

You'll need to gather:

- A blank notebook for each child to use as a Patriotic 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

Favorite Books

These books are listed to give you some ideas for reading material for this study. The list includes titles that can be used for the student's independent reading or for family read-aloud time. This list was not created for you to locate all of the titles and have your student read all of them! Choose one or two for the student to read and one family read-aloud title to read through the week of Flag Day. Have the child keep track of the books that they read in their Patriotic Journal.

Faith of Our Founding Fathers, by Tim LaHaye. Published by Master Books, for grades 4 and up. Wonderful introduction to the faith of those who helped build this country, and how that faith forged the foundation of our government and country. Excellent read-aloud book.

Our Sacred Honor: Words of Advice from the Founders in Stories, Letters, Poems, and Speeches, by William J. Bennett, editor. Published by Simon & Schuster, for grades 7 and up. A worthy collection of so many important thoughts and ideals held by our founding fathers — good for the whole family.

In God We Trust: Stories of Faith in American History, by Timothy Crater and Ranelda Hunsicker. Published by Chariot Victor Publishing, for all ages. Another interesting family read-aloud book, exploring the vital connections of our Christian faith with American history.

Samuel Adams: The Father of American Independence, by Dennis Fradin. Published by Clarion Books, for grades 3 and up. An interesting and important book about this patriot, clearly telling the story of this man and his ideals that helped found this country. This would also be a good read-aloud for the whole family.

Francis Scott Key, by David Collins (Sower Series). Published by Mott Media, for grades 5 and up. This biography tells the story of Mr. Key's life from the perspective of his faith and family, as well as his accomplishments.

A Young Patriot: The American Revolution As Experienced by One Boy, by Jim Murphy. Published by HMH Books for Young Readers, for grades 6 and up. Fascinating true story of a fifteen-year-old young man, telling his story as a soldier in the Revolutionary War — great reading!

Elementary Favorite Books

Red, White and Blue: The Story of the American Flag (All Aboard Reading, Level 3), by John Herman. Published by Penguin Young Readers, for grades PreK–3. A great book for beginning readers, telling the story of our flag and the many places that it has been.

The Star Spangled Banner, by Peter Spier. Published by Doubleday Books for Young Readers, for grades K–2. What a beautiful book! The author has illustrated three of the verses of the anthem with drawings from places and people all over America. Including the history of the War of 1812 and a copy of the original Star Spangled Banner manuscript, it is a perfect addition to our study of the U.S. flag.

Betsy Ross: Designer of Our Flag (Childhood of Famous Americans), by Ann Weil. Published by Aladdin Books, for grades 2–6. Fun to read, this book tells of the childhood of Betsy Ross.

Francis Scott Key: Poet and Patriot, by Lillie Patterson. Published by Garrad Publishing Company, for grades 3–6. An interesting biography of the attorney and author of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

America the Beautiful, by Katharine Lee Bates. Published by Atheneum, for all ages. An illustrated edition of the patriotic song, with breath-taking artwork that shows the beauty of our country.

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Coloring Book, by A. G. Smith. Published by Dover Publications, for grades 2 and up. Fun to color, while the children get to see the Statue of Liberty in various phases of completion.

The Story of the Statue of Liberty, by Betsy & Giulio Maestro. Published by HarperCollins, for grades K–3. This book tells the story behind our Statue of Liberty—a gift from France. Beautiful drawings that explain the creation of this patriotic symbol.

Rushmore, by Lynn Curlee. Published by Scholastic, for grades 2-6. Filled with spectacular artwork, this book tells the story of this granite monument—how it was created and how the figures were chosen.

Flag Day – Day One

Raise the American Flag!

The First American Flag & the First Flag Day

Today we are going to focus on the first American flag—how it came about and what it looked like. This first flag helped unite the colonies under one flag, instead of all of the different colonial flags. We are also going to look at the very first Flag Day and how it originated.

Our Objectives

- Learn about the origins of the first American flag
- Study the history of the first Flag Day

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Today, gather the crew together and walk, ride bicycles, or take a drive around town, counting the total number of flags that you see. Cruise by the bank, post office, library, and other places that might display the flag. Take a picture of your crew by the biggest flag for your family's Patriotic Album!



Flag Day – Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“God makes a path, provides a guide, and feeds a wilderness.”

Roger Williams, 1603–1683

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

flag
create
sew
country

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Betsy Ross**. Why is she considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Betsy Ross in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about Betsy Ross and why she is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please answer these questions about Flag Day:

1. Share about Flag Day and its origin.
2. When do we celebrate Flag Day, and why on that date?
3. Share a picture of the first American flag. *Draw a picture of it in your Journal. Write a paragraph that describes what this flag looked like, telling how many stars and stripes and what colors were used on this flag.*

Resource

Ask AI Prompt: Please share Flag Day Crafts for Kids.

Flag Day – Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**“Citizens by birth or choice of a common country,
that country has the right to concentrate your affections.
The name AMERICAN, which belongs to you, in your national capacity,
must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism.”**
George Washington, “Farewell Address,” 1796

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

design
original
patriotic
national

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Betsy Ross**. Why is she considered an American patriot? *Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Why is Betsy Ross considered an American patriot?

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Share about Flag Day and what was the date of the first national Flag Day?
2. Which president signed an Act of Congress that designated June 14th of every year as National Flag Day?
3. Who is believed to have introduced the first celebration of the American flag? Hint—he was a Wisconsin schoolteacher, 1889.

Resource

Ask AI Prompt: Please share resources for The Flag of the United States of America.

Flag Day – Day Two

Raise the American Flag!

Changes to Our Flag

As our young country grew, the thirteen stars on the field of blue were not enough to represent the changes! Today we're going to find out how these changes brought about changes in the American flag, going from thirteen stars to fifty stars — all in less than 200 years!

Our Objectives

- Learn about the changes in the American flag through history
- Investigate our National Anthem and the particular flag that was observed by the author while writing this anthem

Family Patriotic Project

It's Patriotic Ice Cream night! Armed with vanilla or strawberry ice cream, let everyone decorate their ice cream with red, white, and blue sprinkles, candies, or red licorice. Challenge: see if they can create a flag on their ice cream!



Flag Day – Day Two

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.”

Francis Scott Key, “The Star Spangled Banner,” 1814

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

change
banner
famous
dawn



Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Francis Scott Key**. Why is he considered an American Patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Francis Scott Key in your Patriotic Journal.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please share about Francis Scott Key and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share resources for kids on the American Flag and answer these questions:

1. Share some pictures of the American flag that show how it has changed. What is the difference in the flags — what part has been changing? *Draw the Betsy Ross flag.*
2. What is the name of our National Anthem? Please share the words to it. Who wrote the words to this anthem — or song? *Copy the first eight lines in your Journal.*
3. Draw today's American flag in your Journal. Use your family flag as a model to get the colors in the right order.

Flag Day – Day Two

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

Flag Resolution adopted by Continental Congress, June 14, 1777

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

anthem
perilous
rampart
additional

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Francis Scott Key**. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.* **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Francis Scott Key and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Using books, websites of the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. When Mr. Francis Scott Key wrote the *Star Spangled Banner*, where was he? Why was he there, and which battle was he observing?
2. Share the changes to the American flag, and answer these questions.
 - a) How many stars, red stripes, and white stripes are on today's flag?
 - b) What American president authorized the most recent change to the American flag?

Resource

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share The Voice of Patriotism In Writing.

Flag Day – Day Three

Raise the American Flag!

The Pledge of Allegiance

Do you know the Pledge of Allegiance? Today we are going to learn more about the pledge — how it was created, who wrote it originally, and how it has changed. Learn the pledge and say it with respect!

Our Objectives

- Learn the story behind the Pledge of Allegiance
- Study the changes that have been made to the Pledge

Family Patriotic Project

Today we can interview our grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends, asking them to describe what the flag means to them. Find two relatives or friends and have a family interview — either in person or by letter or email. Ask them to describe their feelings about the flag and special memories they have about the flag. Write down their responses and put them in the family Patriotic Album.



Flag Day – Day Three

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Equal and exact justice to all men.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1801

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

pledge
divide
nation
all

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Thomas Jefferson**. Why do you think that he is considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a story about Thomas Jefferson in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share a Biography of Thomas Jefferson and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

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

1. Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Share the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.
2. Do you know the Pledge of Allegiance? *Here are the words — copy them neatly into your Patriotic Journal and then see if you can memorize it!*

**“I pledge allegiance to the flag, Of the United States of America;
And to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation Under God,
Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.”**

Flag Day – Day Three

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction,
is the first and only legitimate object of good government.”**

Thomas Jefferson, 1809

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

**allegiance
indivisible
pledge
republic**

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Thomas Jefferson**. Why is he considered an American patriot? Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share a Biography of Thomas Jefferson and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

1. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. Please share The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.
 - a) Who is given credit for writing the Pledge?
 - b) When and why did he write it?
 - c) What changes were made to the original Pledge of Allegiance, and when were they made?
2. Where did the flag get the nickname “Old Glory?”

Resource

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share Liberty - The Road to Revolution.

Flag Day – Day Four

Raise the American Flag!

Patriotic Music and Patriotic Symbols

Can you name a patriotic song? Songs like “God Bless America,” “The Star Spangled Banner,” and “Yankee Doodle Dandy” are all patriotic songs and remind us of how wonderful it is to be an American! We are going to learn more about some of these songs and patriotic symbols like the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam, and Mount Rushmore.

Our Objectives

- Learn the story behind some of our patriotic songs
- Study the history of some of America’s patriotic symbols

Family Patriotic Project

We can go on a sort of scavenger hunt in town. Our mission is to see how many patriotic symbols we can identify in our town. For example, perhaps you can see a copy of the Liberty Bell at the local museum, the statue of the drum & fife corps in the town square, Uncle Sam at the Recruiting Office, or anything else that is patriotic. Ask the librarian, check at the town hall or courthouse, and possibly the Post Office. What did you find? Record the results in your Patriotic Album.



Flag Day – Day Four

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“My country! 'Tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of Thee I sing.”

Samuel Francis Smith, “America,” 1832

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old.

Please define these words:

pride
free
brave
yankee

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **John Adams**. Why do you think that he is considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a story about John Adams in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share a Biography of John Adams and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share these resources for kids:

1. Share these patriotic songs. *Write down the first line of each one:*
 - a) *God Bless America*
 - b) *America, the Beautiful*
 - c) *Yankee Doodle*
2. *Our country has many patriotic symbols. Can you name some?* Look up these symbols and then draw a picture in your Journal:
 - a) Mount Rushmore
 - b) The Liberty Bell

Resources

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share these resources for kids: Patriotic Songs and the Statue of Liberty Live CAM.

Flag Day – Day Four

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support, and defend these States."

John Adams, 1776

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

bless
guide
liberty
freedom

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **John Adams**. Why is he considered an American patriot? Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. Please share a Biography of John Adams and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Our country has several patriotic songs, among which are *God Bless America*, *America, the Beautiful*, *The Star Spangled Banner*, *America*, and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Share the story behind these songs. *Summarize the story of one of the songs in your Journal.*
2. America's patriotic symbols are so important — list three, describing their origin and the story behind them. (Hints: Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty). *Write a paragraph about one of the symbols in your journal.*

Resources

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share these resources:

Patriotic Songs and The Liberty Bell.

Flag Day – Day Five

Raise the American Flag!

Respect for the Flag

Why do we need to respect the flag? Through these holiday studies, we have seen how many people have fought and died to protect our flag and all that it represents—our freedom, our liberty, our Christian heritage. Today, we will study the rules of respect for the flag that are so important. When we respect the flag, we show our respect for those who have fought to protect and preserve all that it represents.

Our Objectives

- Learn some of the basic rules of etiquette for our flag
- Understand why these rules are important and make sure that we observe them in our own flag handling



Flag Day – Day Five

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**"Glorious flag we raise so proudly,
Stars and stripes, red, white and blue."**
Clara Sears, from *The Unfurling of the Flag*

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

respect
care
honor
rules

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Samuel Adams**. Why do you think that he is considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a story about Samuel Adams in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about Samuel Adams and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Look up "U.S. Flag" or "American Flag" with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. Can you find the rules or "code" of the flag? See if you can find one rule of flag care. *Write this rule in your Patriotic Journal.* A good example of this would be that the flag should never touch the ground.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share the rules, care or "code" of the American flag. Please share a printable American Flag.

Lower Level Wrap-up

Spend some time looking at and reviewing the Flag Day pages of the children's Patriotic Journals:

1. Review the **WOWs** by writing them on 3x5 cards and seeing if the child can read and define each word.
2. Talk about the five patriots that we have looked at this week. Do they remember the stories of their patriotism?

Flag Day – Day Five

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic 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 Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

respect
etiquette
dignity
display

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Samuel Adams**. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in your Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Samuel Adams and why he is considered an American patriot.

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Share the Flag Code or rules of Flag Etiquette and answer the following questions:
 - a) When should the flag be flown and when should it not be flown?
 - b) On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-mast for part of the day — which part?
 - c) How can the flag be used as a distress signal?
2. There is a famous memorial sculpture that depicts soldiers working together to raise the American flag. Which sculpture is it, and what is the story behind the flag-raising?

Upper Level Wrap-up

This is going to be a day of studying rules for flag care and respect. Why not wrap up this week of learning with an evening sharing each person's favorite flag story or memory or song? Use this night to share your own feelings about the flag — how do you feel when you observe a flag waving in the breeze, a flag being burned, or watching a flag being raised at a public event? It is my prayer that now we will really SEE the flag when it is on display, remember everything it represents, and be ready to defend it.



Additional Resources

FLAG DAY

Ask AI Prompt: Please share these resources:

Meaning of the Flag Colors

History of Flag Day

Folding the American Flag

Flag Etiquette

Flag Law from the Library of Congress

Betsy Ross and the American Flag

A Tour of the Betsy Ross House

Flag Trivia

USA Flag Specifications

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Smithsonian Institute — *The Star-Spangled Banner*

Francis Scott Key and the Writing of *The Star-Spangled Banner*

US Flag Facts

American Flag Picture Gallery

PATRIOTIC SONGS

Name that Patriotic Tune Game

PATRIOTIC SYMBOLS

The Great Seal and National Mottos

The Statue of Liberty

The Liberty Bell Timeline



Favorite Findings of the Week

It can be helpful to keep track of some of the favorite things you have discovered this week. Use this page to record some of these things for later review and further study.

Books:

People:

Places:

Cool Words:

Family Connections:

Family Project of the Week:

Internet Sites:

Notes:

Independence Day



INDEPENDENCE DAY

This is it, the day has arrived — red, white, and blue abound! The children are already debating whose turn it is to sit on Dad's shoulders for fireworks, where we will sit for the parade, and of course, who will spit the watermelon seeds the farthest. What a day of fun, family, picnics, parades, and fireworks.

But wait — what are we celebrating? Summertime? The Fourth of July? We are actually celebrating Independence Day — the day that is dedicated to the celebration of our forefathers decision to claim independence from Britain's King George! Today we commemorate this step toward independence that happened hundreds of years ago.

In July 1776, the celebration was devoted to rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving, and we can do well by following their example and learning from their lessons. What a radical act of those patriots — to declare independence and break away from England? How could they even imagine they could be victorious? The King had more troops, money, weapons, and a naval force. American colonies just had . . . what? A commitment to their natural rights endowed by God, freedom of religion and speech — to name just a few. They were entirely devoted to a cause that they felt was God's will, and they were determined to follow His lead.

When we read about the sacrifice and suffering, the people and places, and the price paid to obtain our independence, we should be humbled. Let us never again take such freedoms for granted — a great price has been paid for their purchase and protection. This week is going to be exciting, enlightening, and absolutely amazing. When you read about these patriots and how they planned and fought and wouldn't stop until they succeeded, you will never look at Independence Day in the same light again.

We've got quite a bit to cover this week, so let's dive in and begin! As you go through this week, take time to notice just how many freedoms you enjoy on a daily basis and be thankful for those radical patriots! Let's put the INDEPENDENCE back in this holiday, being thankful for and standing up for the many freedoms we enjoy!

Happy Independence Day!



Learning Plan for the Independence Day Study

The following includes a brief summary of the Learning Steps that we will use for this week-long study of Independence 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 people and stories surrounding the Revolutionary War and just study that for the full five days! That's OK! Enjoy it!

DAY ONE: THE FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY

Today will be spent investigating the very first Independence Day — who celebrated, what started it, what led up to this day, and more! One of the Founding Fathers wrote about what this day would come to mean to future generations — let's see how accurate he was!

DAY TWO: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence was a key document in the history of this country. So much was captured in this declaration, other things were removed. How did we get today's Declaration?

DAY THREE: BASICS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Revolutionary War was a long and difficult war — fought by those who would stop at nothing to obtain their independence. We'll learn more about it and how it helped secure the liberty we enjoy today.

DAY FOUR: OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

When we talk about the Founding Fathers, who were they? How did they become known as Founding Fathers?

DAY FIVE: THE CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

After the Declaration of Independence and other attempts to formulate a governing document, our Constitution and Bill of Rights were hammered out in a long and difficult process. How does the saying go, that "nothing lasting will come easy?" We need to know the story behind the Constitution — the ideas and compromises and why it is so vitally important to every American.

You'll need to gather:

- A blank notebook for each child to use as a Patriotic Journal
- Family albums from both Mom and Dad's families
- An American flag to fly this week
- Some of the books that are listed in the pages that follow

Favorite Books

These books are listed to give you some ideas for reading material for this study. The list includes titles that can be used for the student's independent reading or for family read-aloud time. This list was not created for you to locate all of the titles and have your student read all of them! Choose one or two for the student to read and one family read-aloud title to read through the week of Independence Day. Have the child keep track of the books that they read in their **Patriotic Journal**.

A Young Patriot: The American Revolution As Experienced by One Boy, by Jim Murphy. Published by HMH Books for Young Readers, for grades 4 and up. Story told from the diaries of Joseph Plumb Martin, a 15-year-old boy that enlisted in the army in 1776 and served in the Continental Army for seven years. Well-illustrated, it would make a fascinating family read-aloud for this week.

Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention - May to September 1787, by Catherine Bowen. Published by Back Bay Books, for grades 7 and up. This book is written for older students, describing the atmosphere, events, and people that attended the Constitutional Convention.

Faith of Our Founding Fathers, by Tim LaHaye. Published by Master Books, for grades 3 and up. Wonderful book that explains the importance of faith to America's Founding Fathers, and the impact of their faith on the founding of this great country.

Give Me Liberty: The Uncompromising Statesmanship of Patrick Henry, by David J. Vaughan. Published by Cumberland House, for grades 7 to adult. This book is Fascinating — taking us back in time to the man that was Patrick Henry, sharing many of his speeches and writings to provide insight into this complex man that came to be called the “Trumpet of the Revolution.”

Daniel Webster: Defender of the Union, by Robert A. Allen. Published by Mott Media, for grades 4–12. Good biography about this wonderful orator, politician, and Christian.

Noah Webster: Master of Words, by David Collins. Published by Mott Media, for grades 4–12. Find out just how this man of words lived his life and how he contributed, in his own way, to our independence.

Elementary Favorite Books

The Liberty Tree: The Beginning of the American Revolution (Picture Landmark Books), by Lucille Recht Penner. Published by Random House, for all ages. A beautifully illustrated book that tells the story of events that led up to the

Revolutionary War and describes the very first Independence Day. This book is a perfect supplement to this study — highly recommended!

The Hatmaker's Sign: A Story by Benjamin Franklin, by Candace Fleming. Published by Scholastic, for grades 2–5. Retells the tale told by Benjamin Franklin to Thomas Jefferson when Jefferson was disgruntled about all of the proposed changes and editing of his original draft of the Declaration of Independence. Fun read-aloud for the family, this book helps to bring understanding of the difficulties of editing and compromise.

A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution, by Betsy and Giulio Maestro. Published by HarperCollins, for grades K–3. This book tells the story of the men that worked so hard to develop our Constitution. Great for explaining some of the process and the art of compromise to younger students!

This is a great first biography series for grades K-3. They are all written by David A. Adler. Wonderful illustrations, simply written, and packed with fascinating information:

A Picture Book of George Washington

A Picture Book of Benjamin Franklin

A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson

A Picture Book of Patrick Henry

If You Lived At The Time Of The American Revolution, by Kay Moore. Published in paperback by Scholastic, for grades 2–6. A fun-to-read book that answers many questions of what life in America was like during the Revolutionary War. Answers the questions of so many children about this era.

“*Childhood of Famous Americans*” series of books written for grades 2–6, published by Aladdin Paperbacks. Independence Day studies might include:

Abigail Adams: Girl of Colonial Days, by Jean Brown Wagoner

Crispus Attucks: Black Leader of Colonial Patriots, by Dharathula H. Millender

Martha Washington: America's First First Lady, by Jean Brown Wagoner

Paul Revere: Boston Patriot, by Augusta Stevenson

Thomas Jefferson: Third President of the United States, by Helen Albee Monsell

Independence Day – Day One

Raise the American Flag!

The First Independence Day

Today will be spent investigating the very first Independence Day — who celebrated, what started the celebration, what led up to this day, and more!

Our Objectives

- Learn about the original Independence Day
- Study the people involved in that first celebration

Family Patriotic Project

Tonight, pull out old family albums and find photos of Independence Day celebrations in your family's past. Look through summer vacation pictures, days at the beach, and picnics on this special day. Share your memories of Independence Day — both parents and children. Write down some of these memories in your Family Patriotic Album and add some photos, too!



Independence Day – Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy the following quote into your 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 **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

celebrate
free
independence
choice

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **John Hancock**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please share about John Hancock. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about John Hancock in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

First, look up Independence Day with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. Then, answer these questions in your *Patriotic Journal*. The book, ***The Liberty Tree: The Beginning of the American Revolution (Picture Landmark Books)*** will be very helpful with these questions.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share these resources about Independence Day:

1. We celebrate our independence on the 4th of July. Why do we celebrate on that day, instead of the 3rd of July? What special event occurred on the 4th of July in 1776?
2. Name two reasons that the colonists wanted to be free of King George and Britain.
3. Write or narrate a short story about what you might have seen and felt if you were there when they declared independence. What would you hear and see on the streets?
4. Name two people that you might have seen on the streets of Philadelphia that day.

Independence Day – Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy this quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward and forevermore.”

John Adams, Letter dated July 3, 1776

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

independence
revolution
freedom
colonial

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **John Hancock**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. Please share about John Hancock. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Why do we celebrate our independence on July 4th, instead of July 3rd or July 8th? What happened on the 4th that made it the chosen day of celebration? Website suggestion:
2. When did Independence Day become a national holiday?
3. Write a paragraph that describes some of the emotions that most colonists might have felt when hearing the news of independence for the first time.

Independence Day – Day Two

Raise the American Flag!

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence was a key document in the history of this country. So much was captured in this declaration, while other things were removed. What was the story and how did we get today's Declaration?

Our Objectives

- Investigate the reasons for writing the Declaration of Independence
- Study the main emphasis of the Declaration

Family Patriotic Project

As a family, take time today to talk about some of the freedoms that we enjoy in this country. Parents, mention some of the freedoms that we did or did not have twenty years ago and how things have changed. Talk about how important our freedoms are, and how we can lose them if we don't protect them as vigilantly as the colonists did over two hundred years ago!



Independence Day – Day Two

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“There was never a good war or a bad peace.”

Benjamin Franklin, in a letter, 1750

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please define these words:

draft
write
compose
reason

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Benjamin Franklin**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share about Benjamin Franklin. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Benjamin Franklin in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

Read the following questions and find the answers using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. *Then, take time to discuss what you find and write your discoveries in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share these resources:

1. Define word **declaration** in a dictionary. What does it mean? *Write a definition in your Journal, in your own words.*
2. Look up **Declaration of Independence** in the encyclopedia and answer these questions:
 - a) Why did the colonists write this Declaration?
 - b) Who wrote most of this document?
3. Hear the Declaration of Independence: Read Aloud

Resources

Read ***The Hatmaker's Sign: A Story by Benjamin Franklin***, by Candace Fleming.

Independence Day – Day Two

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

Benjamin Franklin, Motion for Prayers, Phila. Convention, 1787

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

necessary
entitle
created
political

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Benjamin Franklin**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Benjamin Franklin. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Use the **Declaration of Independence** to answer questions 2 - 6.
2. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
3. What did Benjamin Franklin mean when, at the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he commented, "We must all hang together or assuredly we shall hang separately."
4. When looking at the Declaration of Independence, what three "certain unalienable rights" are listed?
5. At the close of the Declaration, all of the signers pledge three things when they added their signatures. What three things were listed?
6. What message is written on the back of the Declaration of Independence?

Independence Day – Day Three

Raise the American Flag!

Basics of the Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War was a long and extremely difficult war, fought by people that would stop at nothing to obtain their earned independence. Today we will learn more about this war and how it helped secure our liberty.

Our Objectives

- Study some of the events of the Revolutionary War
- Learn about the patriots that helped America with the war

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Using a map, locate the major Revolutionary War battle sites and Valley Forge. How far is Lexington from where you live? Can you imagine that a war that took place in such a relatively small part of our country could have such a lasting impact on an entire continent and the lives of billions of people and governments around the world? Talk it out — how has it changed the world — freedoms, liberty, religion, life in America?



Independence Day – Day Three

LOWER LEVEL

TODAY'S QUOTE

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone;
it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."**

Patrick Henry, 1775

WORDS OF WISDOM (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

battle
struggle
brave

troops

Patriots

Using an encyclopedia or Internet site, look up the American patriot, **Patrick Henry**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about Patrick Henry. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Patrick Henry in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

Read the following questions and find the answers with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. *Then, take time to discuss what you find and write your discoveries in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share these resources:

1. Please answer these questions about the **Revolutionary War**:
 - a) When and where did the war start?
 - b) How long did the war last?
2. When did the Revolutionary War end?
3. Who was named to command the Continental Army and later became President of the United States?

Resource

The Liberty Tree: The Beginning of the American Revolution (Picture Landmark Books), by Lucille Recht Penner.

Independence Day – Day Three

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? . . . Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take but as for me; give me liberty or give me death.”

Patrick Henry, Speech in Virginia Convention, 1775

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

victory
surrender
strategy
commander

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Patrick Henry**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Patrick Henry and Give me liberty or give me death! Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Who were the Sons of Liberty? *Write a paragraph that describes this group of people and what they contributed to the Revolutionary War.*
2. How long did the Revolutionary War last, and how did it end?
3. Where were the first shots of the Revolutionary War fired?
4. In 1778, one European country came to the aid of Americans. What country was this, and how did they help win the war?

Resource

Timeline of the Revolutionary War

Independence Day – Day Four

Raise the American Flag!

Our Founding Fathers

When we talk about the Founding Fathers, who were they? How did they become known as “Founding Fathers?” These questions and others will be studied today.

Our Objectives

- Investigate the Founding Fathers and find out who they were
- Learn more about how they worked together to form the foundation of this country

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Today we can work on a family tablecloth for the Independence Day celebration! Using an inexpensive white bed sheet, have each family member decorate a portion, using permanent red and blue markers to capture the ideas and words and stories that you have read about while studying Independence Day. Make a square somewhere on the cloth for each member to sign their “John Hancock” along with their age. Perhaps someone can write the first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence in the center! Save this tablecloth for years of fun memories — add to it each year!



Independence Day – Day Four

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**“Mothers are, indeed, the affectionate and effective teachers
of the human race.”**

Daniel Webster, Speech, 1840

WORDS OF WISDOM (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please define these words:

founding

disagree

agree

exalt

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Daniel Webster**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share about Daniel Webster. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Daniel Webster in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

Read the following questions and find the answers using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. *Then, take time to discuss what you find and write your discoveries in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share these resources:

1. What do we mean when we say **Founding Fathers**?
2. What are the names of three of America's Founding Fathers. *Write the names in your journal.*
3. All of the Founding Fathers were different, just as brothers and sisters are different. They thought differently, spoke differently, and had different ideas. Yet, they had to work together to form this country — they had to compromise. Can you think of two things they might have argued about?



Independence Day – Day Four

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“No man can suffer too much, and no man can fall too soon, if he suffer, or if he fall, in the defense of the liberties and constitution of his country.”

Daniel Webster, Speech, 1830

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

compromise
unalienable
agreement
suffer

Patriots

Using books, websites of the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Daniel Webster**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Daniel Webster. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Share the names of three of the signers of the “Declaration of Independence.” *Then do a bit of research. Write a paragraph about each one, describing which colony they represented and some of the details about this person and his life.*
2. Which Founding Father is known as the “Father of the Constitution,” and why is he called that?
3. One of our Founding Fathers went on to become our first elected President. Who was this, when was the election, and when did he take the oath of office?



Independence Day – Day Five

Raise the American Flag!

The Constitution and Bill of Rights

After the “Declaration of Independence” and other attempts to formulate a governing document, our “Constitution” and “Bill of Rights” were hammered out in a long and difficult process. Today we will take a look at some of the work and people involved in this process and the importance of our “Constitution” to our freedom.

Our Objectives

- Become familiar with the “Constitution” and the “Bill of Rights”
- Study the framers of the “Constitution” and their contributions



Independence Day – Day Five

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"Firm united let us be; Rallying round our liberty."

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 **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

unite
union
state
blessings

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **James Madison**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about James Madison. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about James Madison in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

Read the following questions and find the answers with books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt. *Then, take time to discuss what you find and write your discoveries in your Patriotic Journal.*

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share these resources:

1. Share the **U.S. Constitution**. When and where was it written?
2. When the Constitution was written, there were thirteen colonies in the new country. What are the names of these thirteen colonies? Please share a map of them. *Carefully write the names in your Journal. Do you live in one of the original thirteen colonies?*

Resource

A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution, by Betsy and Giulio Maestro

Lower Level Wrap-up

Spend some time looking at and reviewing the Independence Day pages of the children's Patriotic Journals:

1. Review the **WOWs** by writing them on 3x5 cards and seeing if the child can read and define each word.
2. Talk about the five patriots that we have looked at this week. Do they remember the stories of their patriotism?



Independence Day – Day Five

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“There are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpation.”

James Madison, Speech, 1788

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

preamble
welfare
tranquility
blessings

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **James Madison**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade. Please share about James Madison. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Summarize your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions. Record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share these resources:

1. How many people signed the United States Constitution? Who signed it first?
2. What was the Great Compromise, also known as the Connecticut Compromise? What problems did it solve?
3. How many amendments are contained in the Bill of Rights?
4. Which amendment guarantees the right to bear arms?

Upper Level Wrap-up

This week has been spent learning about the real meaning of Independence Day, and today we are going to begin to use this new appreciation. The people that have helped to form, build, and defend this country paid a high price to

guarantee the futures of generations to come. Talk about favorite patriots and then share and discuss this quote from George Washington's speech to his army before the battle of Long Island, 1776:

"The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army...We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die..."



Additional Resources

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ask AI Prompt: Please share these resources for kids:

Some Notable Fourth of July Occurrences

Boston's Fourth of July

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Spy Letters of the American Revolution

Historic Valley Forge

The Age of Revolution

Heroes of the Faith (Founding Fathers)

Early American Paintings

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Final Text of the Declaration of Independence – July 4, 1776

Declaring Independence: Drafting the Documents

THE CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

The Constitution of the United States

Bill of Rights and Later Amendments

U.S. Constitution Word Puzzle

FIREWORKS

KABOOM! The Anatomy of Fireworks

National Council on Fireworks Safety

AMERICA'S HISTORY

American History from Revolution to Reconstruction

National Archives Online Document

Exhibit Hall The History Place

Ben's Guide to US Government for Kids

America's Story from America's Library

Fourth of July Party Ideas

Fourth of July Craft Idea



Working on the Declaration of Independence

Favorite Findings of the Week

It can be helpful to keep track of some of the favorite things you have discovered this week. Use this page to record some of these things for later review and further study.

Books:

People:

Places:

Cool Words:

Family Connections:

Family Project of the Week:

Internet Sites:

Notes:

Veterans Day



VETERANS DAY

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 Patriotic 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

Favorite Books

These books are listed to give you some ideas for reading material for this study. The list includes titles that can be used for the student's independent reading or for family read-aloud time. This list was not created for you to locate all of the titles and have your student read all of them! Choose one or two for the student to read and one family read-aloud title to read through the week of Veterans Day. Have the child keep track of the books that they read in their **Patriotic Journal**.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the United States at War, by June English and Thomas Jones. Published by Scholastic. I recommend this book for use with *Patriotic Holidays*. It is written for grades 3 through adult and gives an interesting and brief summary of each American war, raising their interest without so many details that it would be too distracting for each week-long holiday study.

Angels of Mercy: The Army Nurses of World War II, by Betsy Kuhn. Published by Aladdin, for grades 3–9. Over 59,000 American women signed up as Army nurses during World War II, and this book describes their service — the trials, danger, hopes, and adventures. While many girls may not be interested in reading about the military or wars, this book could introduce them to a part of our history in a fascinating way.

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients (Collective Biographies), by Kieran Doherty. Published by Enslow Publishers, for grades 6 and up. This book tells the stories behind the bravery of eleven of the recipients of this high honor.

Bully for You, Teddy Roosevelt! (Unforgettable Americans), by Jean Fritz. Published by Puffin, for grades 3–6. A fascinating and fun-to-read biography of this president. Covering his youth, military career, political career, and family life, this book will be a fun read-aloud for the whole family.

Dearest Ones: A True World War II Love Story, by Rosemary Norwalk. Published by Wiley, for grades 8 and up. An insightful book written by an American Red Cross volunteer — compiled from letters to her parents and her journal entries, which were all written while she worked in England and Germany during World War II. Touching and thought-provoking, this book will present this new generation of young adults with a real picture of life, family, and concerns during those times. Good book for a family read-aloud with older children.

The Battle for Iwo Jima (Cornerstones of Freedom), by Tom McGowen. Published by Children's Press, for grades 4 and up. We recognize the image — the men struggling to raise the flag at Iwo Jima, but many of us do not know or understand the significance of their actions or the price that our soldiers paid to accomplish this feat. This book will help readers of all ages better appreciate this battle and our military.

Colin Powell (Junior World Biographies), by Melissa Banta. Published by Chelsea House Publishing, for grades 3 and up. An interesting biography of this American general for young readers, describing his life and achievements.

Douglas MacArthur: An American Hero (Book Report Biographies Series), by Barbara Silberdick Feinberg. Published by Franklin Watts, for grades 4 and up. This book tells the story of this great American general and his contributions.

Dwight David Eisenhower: Soldier and Statesman, by William Jay Jacobs. Published by Franklin Watts, for grades 3 and up. A biography that describes the military and political life of this president.

Military Leaders Since World War II (American Profiles), by Carl W. Borklund. Published by Facts on File, for grades 6 and up. For older students, this book describes the lives and careers of eleven American military leaders, including Colin Powell and William Westmoreland.

Norman Schwarzkopf (Library of Biography), by Rebecca Stefoff. Published by Chelsea House Publishing, for grades 6 and up. A biography of the life of this popular American general.

George C. Marshall: A General for Peace (Makers of America), by Alan Saunders. Published by Facts on File, for grades 4 and up. An interesting biography on this American general and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms: Images That Inspire a Nation, by Stuart Murray and James McCabe. Published by Berkshire House, for grades 6 and up. A fascinating telling of the story behind these four paintings and their welcome reception throughout America.

Elementary Favorite Books

A Soldier's Life: A Visual History of Soldiers Through the Ages, by Andrew Robertshaw. Published by Puffin, for grades 3 and up. A bright and colorful pictorial book that shows and describes soldiers from 50 A.D. to the present. The book explains the uniforms, weapons, daily lives, and other interesting information about soldiers throughout history.

In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem by John McCrae, by Linda Granfield. Published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside, for grades 4 and up. Filled with illustrations, this book tells the story behind the famous poem "In Flanders Field." While sharing the life of the man that wrote the poem, the author helps the reader understand the meaning of the poem and the realities of war.

Dwight D. Eisenhower: Young Military Leader (Childhood of Famous Americans), by Wilma J. Hudson. Published by Aladdin, for grades 3–6. For younger readers, this book describes the childhood and youth of President Eisenhower.

High Flight: A Story of World War II, by Linda Granfield. Published by Tundra Books, for all ages. This book tells the story behind the beautiful poem “High Flight,” written by a nineteen-year-old pilot during World War II. As a child of missionaries, he had an interesting childhood and education. You will enjoy reading the story of the young man that wrote the poem.

The Wall (Reading Rainbow Books), by Eve Bunting. Published by HMH Books, for grades K–4. This beautiful picture book is about a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall by a father and his young son and their effort to locate the name of the grandfather that the boy has never known.

John Philip Sousa (Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Composers), by Mike Venezia. Published by Children’s Press, for grades K–4. A fun and interesting book about the great musician and author of our national march!

Norman Rockwell: America’s Best-Loved Illustrator (First Books - Biographies), by Joel H. Cohen. Published by Franklin Watts, for grades 3 and up. Well-illustrated, this book gives the reader some insight into the life and works of this “All American” artist. Great for children that like to draw and paint!



VETERANS DAY – Day One

Raise the American Flag!

What Is a Veteran?

What do we mean when we talk about “American veterans?” Today we will investigate this definition and the people that we honor on Veterans Day.

Our Objectives

- Study the concept of “military veteran” and how it applies in America
- Learn more about the people that are our veterans

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Today, the whole family can take some time doing some research. As a group, try to gather as many names as you can of family and friends that have served in the military. Interview one of these veterans in person or by phone, letter, or email, asking questions that will help the children better understand what it means to serve our country. Have the students write down the veteran’s answers in their Patriotic Journals.



VETERANS DAY – Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic 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 **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

veteran
defend
serve
soldier



Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Theodore Roosevelt**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about Theodore Roosevelt. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about President Roosevelt in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share these resources:

1. Define **military** and **veteran**. *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 Patriotic Journal.*
3. What does an American military uniform look like? It can be an American Revolutionary uniform, a uniform of an American soldier in one of the World Wars, or any other American uniform. *Draw one of these uniforms in your Journal and describe when this uniform was used. Color the uniform.*
4. Share the Teddy Bear story.

VETERANS DAY – Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic 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 Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please define these terms:

veteran
service
military
commitment



Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Theodore Roosevelt**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share about Theodore Roosevelt. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share these resources:

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?
4. Share a biography of Theodore Roosevelt.

VETERANS DAY – Day Two

Raise the American Flag!

History of Veterans Day

How did Veterans Day begin? Why do we celebrate it 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.

Our Objectives

- Investigate the origin of Veterans Day
- Understand the meaning behind the holiday

Family Patriotic Project

Have the family use the list of all of the names of veterans you collected yesterday, and have everyone write a thank-you note to the veterans. If you don't know any veterans, write a thank-you note from the family to the regional VA Hospital, thanking them all for their service. This is a night for expressing thanks for these fine people and their contributions. Take photos of the family note-writing and cap it off with an ice cream night!



VETERANS DAY – Day Two

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**“Long may your land be bright, with Freedom's holy light;
Protect us by the might, great God our King.”**

Samuel Francis Smith, “America,” 1832

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

recognize
honor
valor
history



Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Dwight Eisenhower**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share about Dwight Eisenhower. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about President Eisenhower in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share these resources:

1. When do we celebrate Veterans Day? Why do we celebrate it on this date?
2. Veterans Day was originally called, “Armistice Day.” Why was it called this?
3. Share a VA Facility near (your town). *Write a letter to the veterans at your regional VA hospital, thanking them for being in the service to protect our country.*
4. Please share Veterans Day coloring pages.

VETERANS DAY – Day Two

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**“But above all else, we are strong because of the courage and vigor
and skill of a liberty loving people who are determined
that this nation shall remain forever free.”**

President Truman, 1945

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

tribute
armistice
recognition
ceremony

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Dwight Eisenhower**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Dwight Eisenhower. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Share the origin of **Veterans Day**. Describe when Veterans Day occurred and who established it as a holiday. *Write two paragraphs describing the first celebration on November 11th.*
2. What was the original name of the holiday? When was the holiday name changed to Veterans Day?



VETERANS DAY – Day Three

Raise the American Flag!

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.

Our Objectives

- Become familiar with the American military
- Understand the various branches of the military

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Work on your Family Patriotic Album tonight, collecting as many old photos as possible of family and friends in uniform. To preserve the original photos, it is recommended that you take these original photos to a color copy center and arrange all of the photos on one or two pages on the copier, so that the copy will show a collage of all the photos. Using plain paper or stickers, title the page as “Our Proud Veterans” (or something original that your family comes up with!) and label the people in the military photos with their name and a date — if you know a date. Put these photocopied collages in a clear page protector and insert this in your family album. Use this page to remember our veterans!



VETERANS DAY – Day Three

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty.”

Winston Churchill, 1940

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please define these words:

troop
army
salute
navy

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Colin Powell**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am __ years old. Please share about Colin Powell. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about Colin Powell in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am __ years old. Please share these resources:

1. Share the five main branches of the American military. *List them in your Patriotic Journal.*
2. *If you could be in the military, what do you think you would like to do to serve our country? Write or narrate a story about what you might do for America — perhaps as a nurse or a pilot?*
3. Share about “John Philip Sousa.” Which part of the American military did he serve in?
4. Share an image of the flag in World War II.



VETERANS DAY – Day Three

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory or defeat.” Theodore Roosevelt

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

**Marines
Reserve
national
readiness**

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Colin Powell**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the ___ grade. Please share Colin Powell's biography. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share:

1. The five major branches of the American military. Describe each branch's primary responsibility.
2. Investigate John Philip Sousa. Please share some of his music. Why is he famous and what branch of the military did he serve with? *Write a paragraph in your Journal that explains his career and contributions to America.*



VETERANS DAY – Day Four

Raise the American Flag!

Flanders Fields

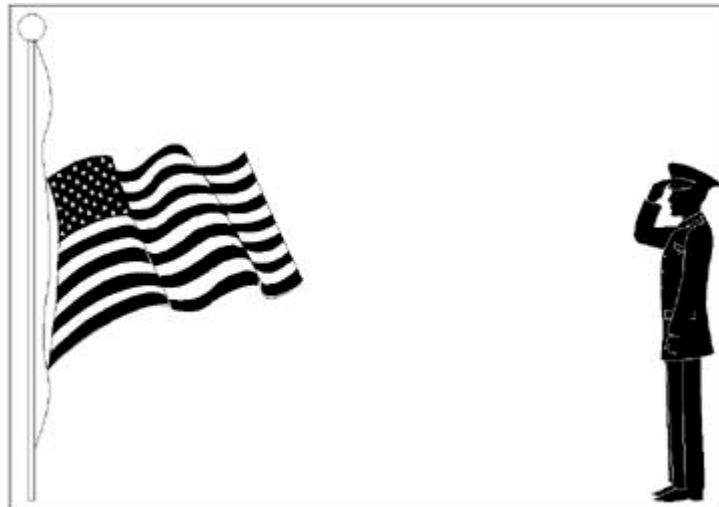
The name “Flanders Fields” is a famous poem that describes a special place in Europe as well as in the hearts of military people. We will spend some time today studying this poem and its meaning and learning how it captures some of those hard-to-describe feelings that we all share about our soldiers.

Our Objective

Learn to appreciate veterans and their willingness to pay the ultimate price on behalf of our country

Family Patriotic Project Suggestion

Contact your regional VA or VFW offices and ask if there is a need for volunteer work or projects that you could work on together as a family. Things like lap quilts, transfer boards for wheelchair users, baked goods, or help putting flags on the graves of veterans for Veterans Day. Perhaps your family can think of other ways to help — have a brainstorming session, pool your talents, and see what you can come up with! I’m sure your efforts will be deeply appreciated by the recipients, and the family memories and lessons are priceless.



VETERANS DAY – Day Four

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Nathan Hale, right before his execution, 1776

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

wounded
bugle
hero
war

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **George C. Marshall**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please share about George C. Marshall. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about General Marshall in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

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

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please share these resources:

1. Look up "*In Flanders Fields*". Read the poem and talk about what you think it means.
2. Who wrote this poem, and what country was he from?
3. Copy the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*" into your Patriotic Journal and decorate the page with a patriotic design.
4. Share a history of the Buddy Poppy.
5. Share an American Flag coloring page.



VETERANS DAY – Day Four

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

**"The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God,
on the courage and conduct of this army . . .**

We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die."

George Washington, Speech to his army, 1776

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am in the __ grade.

Please define these terms:

wounded
appreciate
disabled
commemorate



Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **George C.**

Marshall. Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share about George C. Marshall. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the __ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Share the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*," written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD and the American response, "*America's Answer — In Flanders Field*," written by R. W. Lilliard. *Copy both of these poems into your Patriotic Journal and write a paragraph that describes what they mean to you.*
2. Share the location of Flanders Field on a map or globe. *Draw a map of its location in your Journal, marking Flanders Field.*

VETERANS DAY – Day Five

Raise the American Flag!

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.

Our Objectives

- Recognizing the sacrifices that others have made for America
- Honoring those who died in the line of duty



VETERANS DAY – Day Five

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"I have not yet begun to fight." John Paul Jones, 1779

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your **Patriotic Journal**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am ___ years old. Please define these words:

hero
enlist
protect
commit

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Douglas MacArthur**. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. Please share about Douglas MacArthur. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write or narrate a paragraph about General MacArthur in your Patriotic Journal.*

Read and Discover

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

1. **Ask AI Prompt:** I am ___ years old. What is a poppy? Share the History of the Buddy Poppy. Why are poppies sold on Veterans Day? *Draw a picture of it in your Journal.*
2. *On Veterans Day, November 11th, we are asked to pause at 11 AM to remember those who died defending our country. Think of something special that you can do at 11 AM that day to remember these people and write about it in your Journal.*

Lower Level Wrap-up

Spend some time looking at and reviewing the Veterans Day pages of the children's Patriotic Journals:

1. Review the **WOWs** by writing them on 3x5 cards and seeing if the child can read and define each word.
2. Talk about the five patriots we have looked at this week. Do they remember the stories of their patriotism?
3. Have the child talk about their favorite part of this study — was it the **Read and Discover**, the **Patriots**, the Internet sites, a favorite book?

4. Take some time today to work on the **Family Patriotic Album**, working with the children to insert photos and items they want to include.



VETERANS DAY – Day Five

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Patriotic Journal:

"No man can suffer too much, and no man can fall too soon, if he suffer, or if he fall, in the defense of the liberties and constitution of his country."

Daniel Webster, 1850

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Patriotic Journal.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please define these terms:

significance
enlistment
hostility
consequence

Patriots

Using books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, look up the American patriot, **Douglas MacArthur**.

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share about Douglas MacArthur. Why is he considered an American patriot? *Write your answer in a paragraph in your Journal.*

Read and Discover

Using library books, websites or the Ask AI Prompt, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal, along with the source of your information (book, website, etc.).

Ask AI Prompt: I am in the ___ grade. Please share these resources:

1. Share about "**Arlington National Cemetery**". Write a paragraph that describes the significance of the cemetery. *Write a description of the national ceremony that takes place there every Veterans Day, too.*
2. Share Norman Rockwell's series of paintings called, "**The Four Freedoms**". What four freedoms are depicted in these paintings?

Upper Level Wrap-up

Looking at your Patriotic Journal, review all of your work for Veterans Day with your parents.

1. Explain your favorite part of this week — your most interesting patriot, hero, and other interesting things you have learned.
2. Which resources were the most interesting to you?



Additional Resources

VETERANS DAY

Ask AI Prompt: Please share these resources:

Veterans Day (Formerly Armistice Day)

Remembering Our Veterans — Veterans Day

Veterans Day

President Wilson's Pencil Draft of his announcement of the Armistice ending World War I on 11 November 1918

Armistice Day 1918

AMERICA'S MILITARY

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Army

U.S. Navy

U.S. Air Force

U.S. Marines

U.S. Coast Guard

Army National Guard

Army Reserve

Military Careers

The Military Order of the Purple

Heart West Point Cadet's Prayer

The United States Marine Band

AMERICA'S VETERANS AT WAR

The Drop Zone Virtual Museum

Military History Collections

D-Day Photos

AMERICA'S VETERANS

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Disabled American Veterans

Military.com

The American Legion

AMERICA'S VETERAN MEMORIALS

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

National World War II Memorial

The National WWII Museum

Korean War Veterans Memorial

Arlington National Cemetery

MILITARY MUSEUMS

USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park

The Tank Museum

National Museum of the US Air Force

FAMILY VETERANS MEMORIES

What Did You Do In The War, Grandma?

PATRIOTIC MUSIC AND POETRY

In Flanders Fields, by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae,
MD (1872-1918), Canadian Army

America's Answer — In Flanders Field

When Johnny Comes Marching Home

John Philip Sousa, American Composer, Conductor and Patriot

Hear the Music of Sousa

NORMAN ROCKWELL—AMERICAN ARTIST

The Norman Rockwell Museum

Norman Rockwell Biography and One of the Pictures of the Four Freedoms Series —“Freedom of Speech”



Favorite Findings of the Week

It can be helpful to keep track of some of the favorite things you have discovered this week. Use this page to record some of these things for later review and further study.

Books:

People:

Places:

Cool Words:

Family Connections:

Family Project of the Week:

Internet Sites:

Notes:

Appendix

WEST POINT CADETS PRAYER	120
PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION	121
PATRIOTIC OBLIGATION	122
A CONGRESSMAN’S PRAYER	123
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN -- MOTION FOR PRAYERS	124
GEORGE WASHINGTON -- SPEECH DELIVERED TO HIS ARMY	125
THE MEANING OF OUR FLAG	127
OTHER NOTABLE SPEECHES	128
PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS NOTEBOOK PAGES	133

WEST POINT CADETS PRAYER

BY CLAYTON WHEAT

“O God, our Father, thou Searcher of men’s hearts, help us to draw near to thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of thee be natural.

Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish.

Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life.

Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won.

Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy.

Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life.

Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service.

Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance, and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer.

Help us to maintain the honor of the Corps untarnished and unsullied and to show forth in our lives the ideals of West Point in doing our duty to thee and to our Country.

All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of men.”

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION SEPTEMBER 1787

“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

PATRIOTIC OBLIGATION

BY GROVER CLEVELAND

“The man who takes the oath today to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States only assumes the solemn obligation which every patriotic citizen—on the farm, in the workshop, in the busy marts of trade and everywhere—should share with him.

The Constitution which prescribes his oath, my countrymen, is yours; the government you have chosen him to administer for a time is yours; the laws and the entire scheme of our civil rule, from the town meeting to the State capitals and the national capital, is yours. Every voter, as surely as your chief magistrate, under the same high sanction, though in a different sphere, exercises a public trust.

Nor is this all. Every citizen owes to the country a vigilant watch and close scrutiny of fidelity and usefulness. Thus is the people’s will impressed upon the whole framework of our civil policy — municipal, state, and federal; and this is the price of our liberty and the inspiration of our faith in the republic.”

PATRICK HENRY, 1775

“We are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of Nature has placed in our power . . . the battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.”

DANIEL WEBSTER, 1850

“I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American; and I intend to perform the duties incumbent upon me in that character to the end of my career. I mean to do this with absolute disregard of personal consequences. What are the personal consequences?

What is the individual man, with all the good or evil that may betide him, in comparison with the good or evil which may befall a great country, and in the midst of great transactions which concern that country’s fate? Let the consequences be what they will, I am careless. No man can suffer too much, and no man can fall too soon, if he suffer, or if he fall, in the defense of the liberties and constitution of his country.”

A CONGRESSMAN'S PRAYER

BY JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

“Almighty Father! look in mercy down:
Oh! grant me virtue, to perform my part—
The patriot's fervour, and the statesman's art
In thought, word, deed, preserve me from thy frown.
Direct me to the paths of bright renown
Guide my frail bark, by truth's unerring chart,
Inspire my soul, and purify my heart;
And with success my steadfast purpose crown.
My country's weal—be that my polar star—
Justice, thou Rock of Ages, is thy law—
And when thy summons calls me to thy bar,
Be this my plea, thy gracious smile to draw—
That all my ways to justice were inclin'd—
And all my aims — the blessing of mankind.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN -- MOTION FOR PRAYERS

PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION, 1787

“I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?”

GEORGE WASHINGTON -- SPEECH DELIVERED TO HIS ARMY BEFORE THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND, 1776

"The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be freemen or slaves; whether they are to have any property they can call their own; whether their houses and farms are to be pillaged and destroyed, and themselves consigned to a state of wretchedness from which no human efforts will deliver them. The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army . . . We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die . . ."

SAMUEL ADAMS, 1771

"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. It will bring an everlasting mark of infamy on the present generation, enlightened as it is, if we should suffer them to be wrested from us by violence without a struggle, or cheated out of them by the artifices of false and designing men . . . It is a very serious consideration, which should deeply impress our minds, that millions yet unborn may be the miserable sharers in the event."

JOHN ADAMS -- JULY 3, 1776

“The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward and forever more.”

GEORGE WASHINGTON FAREWELL ADDRESS, 1796

“Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has the right to concentrate your affections . . . The name of **AMERICAN**, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism.”

JAMES MADISON SPEECH, 1788

“There are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpation.”

THE MEANING OF OUR FLAG

HENRY WARD BEECHER

“If one asks me the meaning of our flag, I say to him: It means just what Concord and Lexington meant, what Bunker Hill meant. It means the whole glorious Revolutionary War. It means all that the Declaration of Independence meant. It means all that the Constitution of our people, organizing for justice, for liberty and for happiness, meant.

Under this banner rode Washington and his armies. Before it Burgoyne laid down his arms. It waved on the highlands at West Point. When Arnold would have surrendered these valuable fortresses and precious legacies, his night was turned into day and his treachery was driven away by beams of light from this starry banner.

It cheered our army, driven out from around New York, and in their painful pilgrimages through New Jersey. This banner streamed in light over the soldiers' heads at Valley Forge and at Morristown.

It crossed the waters rolling with ice at Trenton, and when its stars gleamed in the morning with a victory, a new day of hope dawned on the despondency of this nation.

Our Flag carries American ideas, American history and American feelings. Beginning with the Colonies, and coming down to our time, in its sacred heraldry, in its glorious insignia, it has gathered and stored chiefly this supreme idea: divine right of liberty in man. Every color means liberty; every thread means liberty; every form of star and beam or stripe of light means liberty — not lawlessness, but organized, institutional liberty — liberty through law, and laws for liberty!

This American Flag was the safeguard of liberty. Not an atom of crown was allowed to go into its insignia. Not a symbol of authority in the ruler was permitted to go into it. It was an ordinance of liberty by the people, for the people. That it meant, that it means, and, by the blessing of God, that it shall mean to the end of time!”

IN OUR YOUTH OUR HEARTS WERE TOUCHED WITH FIRE

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, JR.

*Portions of an address delivered for Memorial Day,
May 30, 1884, at Keene, NH, before
John Sedgwick Post No. 4, Grand Army of the Republic*

“Not long ago I heard a young man ask why people still kept up Memorial Day, and it set me thinking of the answer. Not the answer that you and I should give to each other — not the expression of those feelings that, so long as you live, will make this day sacred to memories of love and grief and heroic youth — but an answer which should command the assent of those who do not share our memories, and in which we of the North and our brethren of the South could join in perfect accord . . .

But Memorial Day may and ought to have a meaning also for those who do not share our memories. When men have instinctively agreed to celebrate an anniversary, it will be found that there is some thought of feeling behind it which is too large to be dependent upon associations alone. The Fourth of July, for instance, has still its serious aspect, although we no longer should think of rejoicing like children that we have escaped from an outgrown control, although we have achieved not only our national but our moral independence and know it far too profoundly to make a talk about it, and although an Englishman can join in the celebration without a scruple.

For, stripped of the temporary associations which gives rise to it, it is now the moment when by common consent we pause to become conscious of our national life and to rejoice in it, to recall what our country has done for each of us, and to ask ourselves what we can do for the country in return.

So to the indifferent inquirer who asks why Memorial Day is still kept up we may answer, it celebrates and solemnly reaffirms from year to year a national act of enthusiasm and faith. It embodies in the most impressive form our belief that to act with enthusiasm and faith is the condition of acting greatly. To fight out a war, you must believe something and want something with all your might. So must you do to carry anything else to an end worth reaching. More than that, you must be willing to commit yourself to a course, perhaps a long and hard one, without being able to foresee exactly where you will come out. All that is required of you is that you should go some whither as hard as ever you can. The rest belongs to fate.

One may fall — at the beginning of the charge or at the top of the earthworks; but in no other way can he reach the rewards of victory . . .

But even if I am wrong, even if those who come after us are to forget all that we hold dear, and the future is to teach and kindle its children in ways as yet unrevealed, it is enough for us that this day is dear and sacred . . .”

OUR NATIONAL BANNER — JULY 4, 1876

BY DEXTER SMITH

“O’er the high and o’er the lowly
Floats that banner bright and holy
In the rays of Freedom’s sun,
In the nation’s heart embedded,
O’er our Union newly wedded,
One in all, and all in one.
Let that banner wave forever,
May its lustrous stars fade never,
Till the stars shall pale on high;
While there’s right the wrong defeating,
While there’s hope in true hearts beating,
Truth and freedom shall not die.
As it floated long before us,
Be it ever floating o’er us,
O’er our land from shore to shore;
There are freemen yet to wave it,
Millions who would die to save it,
Wave it, save it, evermore.”

OUR FLAG

BY MARK TWAIN

“And our flag — another pride of ours, our chiefest! When we have seen it in far lands — glimpsing it unexpectedly in that strange sky, waving its welcome and benediction to us — we have caught our breaths, and uncovered our heads, and couldn’t speak, for a moment, for the thought of what it was to us and the great ideals it stood for.”

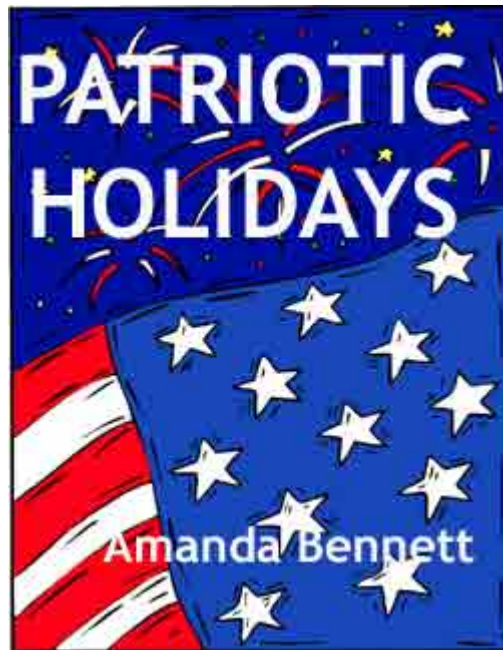
GOD SAVE THE FLAG

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

“Washed in the blood of the brave and the blooming,
Snatched from the altars of insolent foes,
Burning with star-fires, but never consuming,
Flash its broad ribbons of lily and rose.
Vainly the prophets of Baal would rend it,
Vainly his worshippers pray for its fall;
Thousands have died for it, millions defend it,
Emblem of justice and mercy to all:
Justice that reddens the sky with her terrors,
Mercy that comes with her white-handed train,
Soothing all passions, redeeming all errors,
Sheathing the sabre and breaking the chain.
Borne on the deluge of old usurpations,
Drifted our Ark o’er the desolate seas,
Bearing the rainbow of hope to the nations,
Torn from the storm-cloud and flung to the breeze!
God bless the Flag and its loyal defenders,
While its broad folds o’er the battle-field wave,
Till the dim star-wealth rekindle its splendors,
Washed from its strains in the blood of the brave!”

Patriotic Holidays Notebook Pages

By
Amanda Bennett



Patriotic Holidays – NOTEBOOKING PAGES

On the following pages, you will find decorated pages that you can print and use in each child's Patriotic Holidays Journal when working on the Patriotic Holidays Unit Study. Your child can use the pages for their daily work, map drawing, project designs, and much more.

You will notice that some of the pages are lined and others are unlined. This has been done to provide you and your student with some flexibility in their notebooking work with Patriotic Holidays. For pages that they need to draw maps, diagrams, and other project pages, they can use the unlined pages. When they need pages for their writing and research work, they can use the lined pages. Please note that some of the lined pages are done in early elementary style with a dashed line between two solid lines, while other pages are single spaced for older students.

Using notebooks when working on a unit study can be very rewarding for the students, and fun to keep as a memento of their studies. Have fun, and enjoy the adventure!



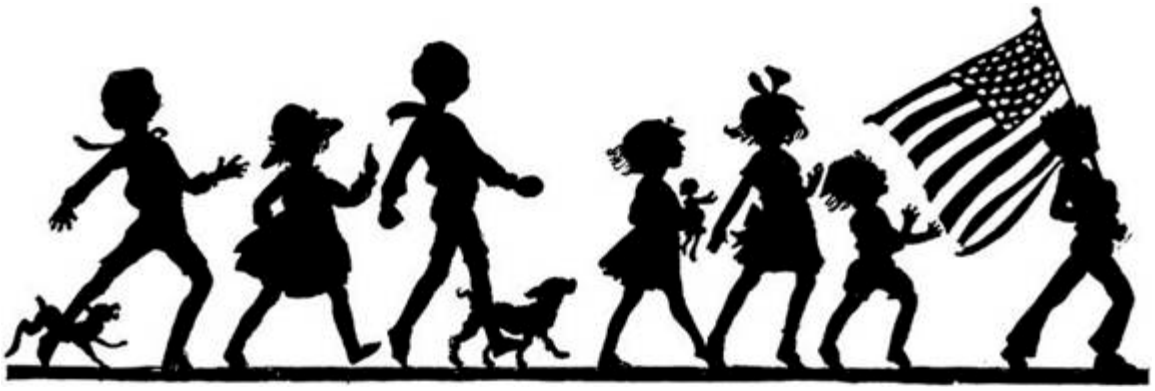


























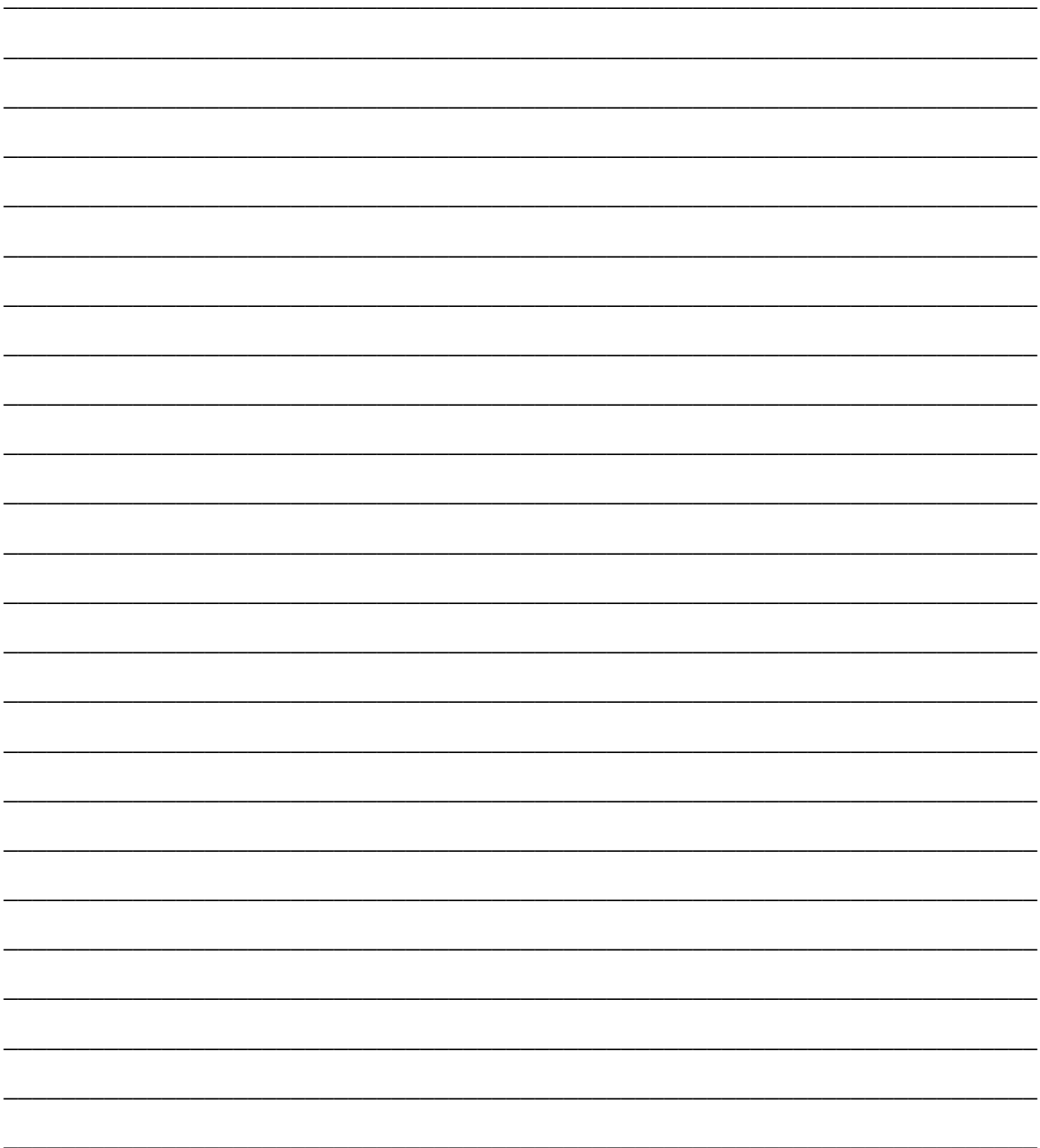




HAVE A HAPPY
Independence Day









Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for text entry.

HAVE A HAPPY Independence Day



Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline for letter height guidance. There are ten sets of these lines for practice.



VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for letter formation.







Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for text entry.



Handwriting practice lines (solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line) for the first section of the page.

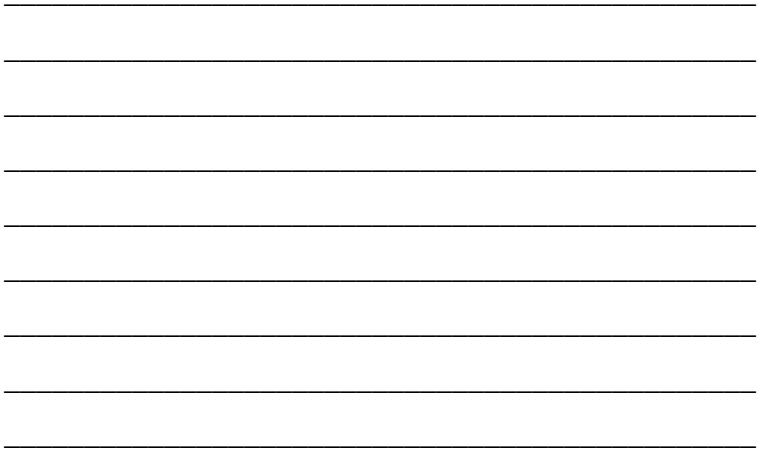


Handwriting practice lines (solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line) for the second section of the page.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.



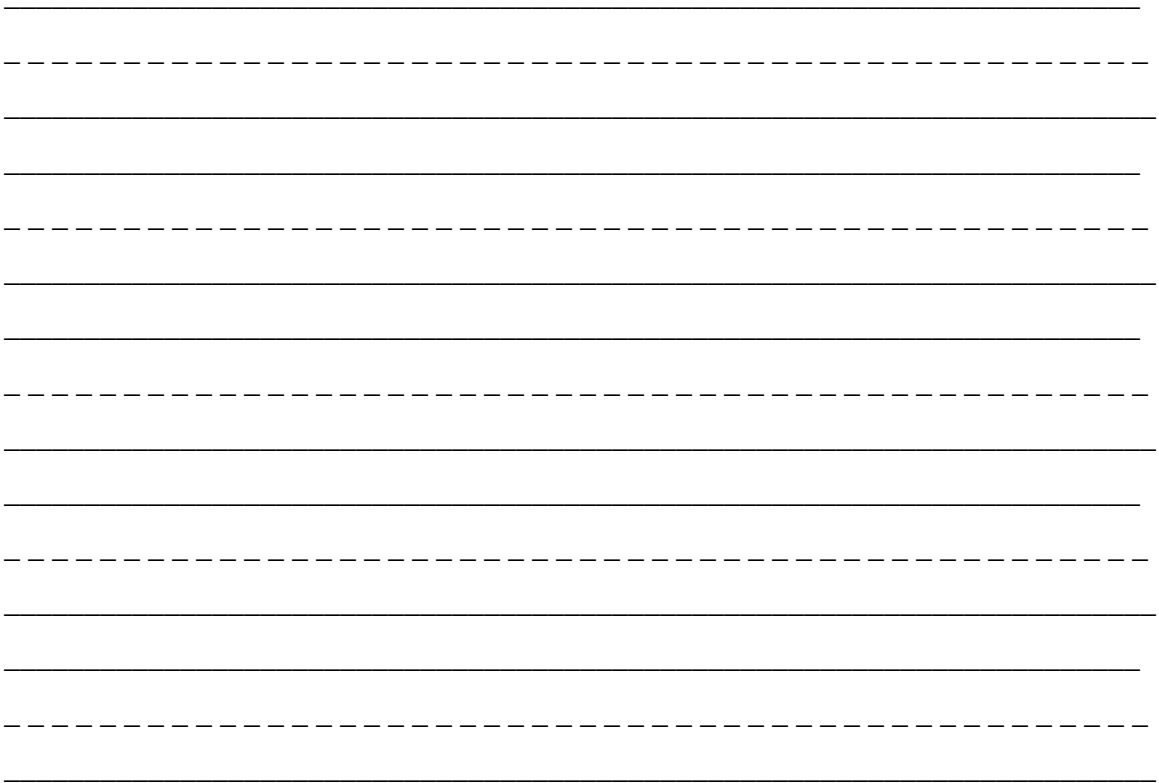
Handwriting practice lines consisting of three sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are ten sets of these lines for practice.



This image shows a blank sheet of handwriting practice paper. It features four identical sets of horizontal lines arranged vertically. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is white, and the lines are black.This image shows a blank sheet of handwriting practice paper. It features four identical sets of horizontal guidelines arranged vertically. Each set includes three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a structured space for practicing letter formation and alignment.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for text entry.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for text entry.

[illegible]



[illegible]



Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are ten sets of these lines for practice.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline for letter height guidance.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for tracing and writing practice.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are five sets of these lines for practice.

[illegible]This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

