

# A Day for Veterans

## Our Country's Heroes

### Get ready for Veterans Day.

Thank our **veterans**! They are people who have served in the **armed forces**. The armed forces keep our country safe. They serve in times of war and peace. Five main groups make up the armed forces. They are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps (pronounced "Kohr"), and Coast Guard.



Peter Turnley/Corbis

Many kids have parents or other loved ones who are veterans. About 23 million veterans live in the United States. Two million of those veterans are women.



AFP/Getty Images

November 11 is Veterans Day. Each year on that day, people honor our veterans. Many cities have parades. Some people give speeches.

A large parade is held in New York City. Thousands of people take part in the event. Veterans march in the parade. Some people ride on floats. Marching bands play music. Some of the songs are **patriotic**. Something that is patriotic shows love for your country.



Getty Images

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. What are the five main groups that make up the armed forces?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. According to the passage, what is a veteran?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why are veterans honored on Veterans Day?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the main idea of this passage?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*On Veterans Day, people honor veterans by holding parades and giving speeches.*

Who? people

**5.** What do people do?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

**6.** How?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

**7.** When?

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

-----

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The United States honors veterans \_\_\_\_\_ they have worked hard to keep the country safe.

- A but
- B because
- C so

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **hero** (he · ro): someone who has done something brave or good.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **hero**.
- a. The firefighter had to climb into a burning house to rescue a little girl so everyone in the town thought she was a hero.
  - b. The boy said that Spider-Man is a hero because he saves people when they are in trouble.
  - c. If a woman jumps into the ocean to save a child from drowning, some might call her or a hero for acting in a brave way.
  - d. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of America's heroes because he worked to make sure all people are treated equally.
  - e. The doctors were celebrated like heroes because they helped save many sick people.

10. Which of these pictures shows someone you would most likely call a hero?



**Teacher Guide and Answer Key**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 470

**To the Teacher:** Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give each student a copy of the passage so they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. What are the five main groups that make up the armed forces? [Important Detail]

**Suggested answer:** The five main groups that make up the armed forces are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

2. According to the passage, what is a veteran? [Important Detail]

**Suggested answer:** A veteran is someone who has served in the armed forces.

3. Why are veterans honored on Veterans Day? [Inferential]

**Suggested answer:** Veterans are honored on Veterans Day because they have served in the armed forces and helped keep our country safe.

4. What is the main idea of this passage? [Main Idea]

**Suggested answer:** Veterans are honored each year on Veterans Day.

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*On Veterans Day, people honor veterans by holding parades and giving speeches.*

Who? people

5. What do people do? **honor veterans**
6. How? **by holding parades and giving speeches**
7. When? **on Veterans Day**
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The United States honors veterans \_\_\_\_\_ they have worked hard to keep the country safe.

**A** but

**B** because

**C** so

**To the Teacher:** ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **hero** (he · ro): someone who has done something brave or good.

**Step 1:** Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (he · ro)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is hero. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Hero."]

**Step 2:** Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "A hero is someone who has done something brave or good."
- b. Teacher says: "Under the title, 'A Day for Veterans' there is a header. The header says 'Our Country's Heroes.' This makes me think that the veterans are our country's heroes. It makes sense that veterans are considered heroes. A hero is someone who does something brave or good. Veterans have done brave and good things because they have served in the armed forces and worked to keep our country safe."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Hero."]

**Step 3:** Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **hero** (he · ro): someone who has done something brave or good.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **hero**.
  - a. The firefighter had to climb into a burning house to rescue a little girl so everyone in the town thought she was a hero.
  - b. The boy said that Spider-Man is a hero because he saves people when they are in trouble.
  - c. If a woman jumps into the ocean to save a child from drowning, some might call her a hero for acting in a brave way.
  - d. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of America's heroes because he worked to make sure all people are treated equally.
  - e. The doctors were celebrated like heroes because they helped save many sick people.



**Step 4:** Check for student understanding

**To the Teacher:** This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

**10.** Which of these pictures shows someone you would most likely call a hero?



*Suggested Additional Vocabulary:* serve, war, peace, parade, speech, float, patriotic