

# Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials

## What is a Veteran?

### Lesson Summary

**Grade:** Kindergarten-1st Grade

**Units:**

1. What is a Historian?
2. What does the Military do and what are their branches?
3. What is a veteran?

**Unit 1: What is a Historian?**

**Subject Area:** Social Studies, Informational Writing, Reading

**Florida Sunshine State Standards:**

Social Studies- [SS.K.A.1.1](#) Develop an understanding of how to use and create a timeline.

Writing- [LAFS.K.W.1.3](#) Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

[LAFS.K.W.1.1](#) Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic.

Reading- [LAFS.K.RL.2.5](#) Recognize common types of texts.

**Timeframe:** First Quarter

**Activity 1:**

Discuss the differences between the past, present and future.

Give several examples, use sentence stems: Right now I am.../Yesterday I.../Tomorrow I will...

Create a timeline example of a students' life, emphasizing events that happened in the past.

Writing prompt: Describe something that happened to you in the past and illustrate. (LAFS.K.W.1.3)

Homework/Project: Create a timeline of your life. Have students present their timelines in class during which they list events from their own past.

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### Activity 2:

Define History/Historian.

History- the study of past events, particularly in human affairs.

Historian- a person who studies past events.

Whole group: Discuss/Make a list of things that happened in the past.

Examples may include: dinosaurs living, people living without TV or cars, etc.

Introduce to studies the genre Biography. Read any biography to class and make list of events that happened in the chosen persons' life.

(Appropriate biographies could be presidents, inventors, etc.)

(LAFS.K.RL.2.5)

Writing/Drawing Prompt: (Opinion) If I were a historian I would study.../Draw yourself as a historian

(LAFS.K.W.1.1)

### Unit 2: What does the Military do and what are their branches?

**Subject Area:** Social Studies, Opinion Writing, Informational Writing

#### **Florida Sunshine State Standards:**

Social Studies- [SS.K.2.5](#) Recognize the importance of U.S. symbols.

[SS.K.G.2.2](#) Know one's own phone number, street address, city or town and that Florida is the state in which the student lives.

Writing- [LAFS.K.W.1.2](#) Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

[LAFS.K.W.1.1](#) Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic.

Reading- [LAFS.K.RI.1.1](#) With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details.

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**Timeframe:** First Quarter

### Activity 1:

Ask students about what country they live in and discuss what the role of the military is in our country, emphasize the primary role of protection. Explain that the president is in charge of the military.

Read a book about the role of the president and the military.

Writing: What does the military do for our country? (LAFS.K.W.1.2)

Write a letter thanking someone who is currently in the military. Teachers can follow instructions from [http://amillionthanks.org/send\\_a\\_letter.php](http://amillionthanks.org/send_a_letter.php) Sample letters and instructions for drop-off are included on the website.

### Activity 2:

Explain that they are different branches of the military that protect us in different ways. Focus on a different branch each day. (LAFS.K.RI.1.1)

Army- Those who protect on land and sometimes travel to different countries and fight on land.

Navy- Those who protect the country by sea and sometimes travel to different countries and fight from the water.

Air Force- Those who protect in the air and sometimes travel to different countries and fight by planes.

Marine Corps- Those who protect on land, in the air, and in the sea.

Define each as a class and have students write the role of each branch in their writing journals. Have students color and cut out a flag from each branch.

After all five branches have been taught create a Venn diagram as a class and compare the branches, two at a time.

Writing: If you could be in a branch of the military, which would you choose and why? Draw a picture of yourself in that branch. (LAFS.K.W.1.1)

Free coloring pages for military flags can be found at: [www.yescoloring.com/american-flag-coloring.html](http://www.yescoloring.com/american-flag-coloring.html)

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### Unit 3: What is a Veteran?

**Subject Area:** Social Studies, Informational Writing

**Florida Sunshine State Standards:**

Writing-[LAFS.K.W.1.2](#) Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Social Studies- [SS.K.A.2.2](#) Recognize the importance of celebrations and national holidays as a way of remembering and honoring people, events, and our nation's ethnic heritage.

Reading- [LAFS.K.RL.2.5](#) Recognize common types of texts.

**Timeframe:** Second Quarter/ Early November/ Veteran's Day

#### Activity 1:

Review what the military does and the genre of Biography. (LAFS.K.RL.2.5)

Discuss the definition of a veteran. Explain that a veteran is any person that has served in any of the branches of the military.

Veteran's Day is a day when we honor those who have served in the military and how they have helped to protect our country.

Writing: What is a veteran? How have veterans helped our country? (LAFS.K.W.1.2)

Write a letter thanking someone who is a veteran. Teachers can follow instructions from [http://amillionthanks.org/send\\_a\\_letter.php](http://amillionthanks.org/send_a_letter.php) Sample letters and instructions for drop-off are included on the website.

Homework: Ask your family members if they know any veterans or if you have any veterans in your family. Write down their name and the branch of the military they were a part of.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery  
Administration



Department  
of History

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### Helpful Recourses

#### **Unit 1: What is a Historian?**

Possible Biography to Read

“A Picture Book of George Washington” by David A. Adler

<https://www.amazon.com/Picture-Book-George-Washington-Biography/dp/0823408000>

#### **Unit 2: What does the Military do and what are their branches?**

Possible Books to start Discussion

“Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood” by Valerie Pfundstein

<https://www.amazon.com/Veterans-Heroes-Neighborhood-Valerie-Pfundstein/dp/0990649415>

“Pepper’s Purple Heart: A Veterans Day Story” by Heather French Henry

<https://www.amazon.com/Peppers-Purple-Heart-Veterans-Story/dp/0970634102>

Military Branch Flags Coloring Pages

[www.yescoloring.com/american-flag-coloring.html](http://www.yescoloring.com/american-flag-coloring.html)

#### **Unit 3: What is a Veteran?**

Letters to Veterans

[www.yescoloring.com/american-flag-coloring.html](http://www.yescoloring.com/american-flag-coloring.html)