

# 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?

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

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3. The passage states that “many kids have parents or other loved ones who are veterans.” Why might having a parent who has served in the military be hard for a kid?

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4. What is the main idea of this passage?

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**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, veterans are honored for their efforts to serve and protect the United States.*

Who? veterans

5. (are) What?

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6. Why?

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7. When?

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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 little girl saved her sick grandmother by calling 911 and so, her family considered her a hero.
  - b. The firefighter had to climb into a burning house to rescue a little girl, and now everyone is calling him a hero.
  - c. Spider-Man saves people when they are in trouble, so we call him a hero.
  - d. If a person jumped into the water to save a child from drowning, some might call him a hero for his brave efforts.
  - e. When the mayor ran into the burning building to save the old lady, many people thought he was a hero.

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



## Teacher Guide and Answer Key

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 470

**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

**Passage Summary:** “A Day for Veterans” describes who veterans are and what they do. It discusses the different types of veterans and how we celebrate and honor them.

**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. [paragraph 1]

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

**Suggested answer:** A veteran is someone who has served in the military. A veteran's job is to keep our country safe. [paragraph 1]

3. The passage states that “many kids have parents or other loved ones who are veterans.” Why might having a parent who has served in the military be hard for a kid? [Inferential]

**Suggested answer:** Having a mother, father, or loved one who is or has served in the military may be hard at times because they may have to leave the country to fight in a war. However, it might also be an honor to look up to a loved one and to be proud that they helped to defend our country.

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

**Suggested answer:** The passage primarily describes who veterans are and how people in the United States celebrate and honor veterans 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, veterans are honored for their efforts to serve and protect the United States.*

Who? veterans

5. (are) What? **are honored**

6. Why? **for their efforts to serve and protect the United States**

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

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

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

- Teacher says: "A hero is someone who has done something brave or good."
- Teacher says: "In the passage, veterans are people who protect our country. Serving in the armed forces takes bravery, therefore, a veteran is often considered a hero."



- 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 little girl saved her sick grandmother by calling 911 and so, her family considered her a hero.
  - b. The firefighter had to climb into a burning house to rescue a little girl, and now everyone is calling him a hero.
  - c. Spider-Man saves people when they are in trouble, so we call him a hero.
  - d. If a person jumped into the water to save a child from drowning, some might call him a hero for his brave efforts.
  - e. When the mayor ran into the burning building to save the old lady, many people thought he was a hero.

**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