

# Meet a Soldier

## Veterans visit classrooms across the country to talk with students.

When Christopher Bain visits schools, he shows students his Army uniform. He also talks to them about the American flag and what it **symbolizes**, or represents.

Bain is a **veteran** who lives in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. A veteran is a person who has served in the U.S. armed forces. November 11 is **Veterans Day**, a day when Americans honor veterans. There are approximately 22.7 million U.S. veterans living today.

Bain is just one of many veterans who visits with students. Now a new program is helping to connect more students with veterans like Bain. It is called Take a Veteran to School Day. The program was created by the History Channel. It encourages schools to invite veterans to speak to students of all ages. Representatives from the History Channel say it's important that students know veterans.

One school to get on board with the program was Steven G. Schorr Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada. That's where the Take a Veteran to School Day program was launched in May of 2007. Third graders met several veterans at the event. Jennifer Rowland is a teacher at the school. "My students were really able to grasp the meaning and importance of Veterans Day by meeting an actual veteran," she told *WR News*. "They loved trying on and touching an actual [military] helmet!"

Veterans get a lot out of the experience too. Bain served in the Iraq war. "I tell [students] a little bit about my story," he told *WR News*. "I wanted to serve my country so I can keep [Americans'] way of life and keep the freedoms that we have."

## Veterans Day Facts

Nearly 2 million U.S. veterans are women.

The country's oldest and largest Veterans Day parade is held in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1968, Congress passed a law to move Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The holiday was switched back to November 11 in 1978.

## Unexpected Veterans

Men and women are not the only military heroes—dogs can be veterans too! Dogs, such as German shepherds, began serving in the U.S. armed forces in the 1940s. Today they continue to assist soldiers. Military dogs **patrol**, or guard, areas and sniff out bombs and traps.

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

1. What's the purpose of Take a Veteran to School Day?

- A to increase educational opportunities for veterans
- B to connect students and veterans
- C to create publicity for the History Channel
- D to show veterans what life outside the military is like

2. Which statement is true?

- A There are 22.7 million Veterans living in America today, including 2 million women.
- B Dogs can also be considered veterans because they help to patrol areas and sniff out bombs.
- C The country's oldest and largest Veterans Day parade is held in Birmingham, Alabama.
- D All of the above.

3. Which of the following statements is supported by the passage?

- A Many students have never heard of Veterans Day.
- B There are not enough women in the U.S. military.
- C Many people in the U.S. believe that honoring veterans is important.
- D Veterans wouldn't be able to share their experiences without Take a Veteran to School Day.

4. Read the following sentence: "My students were really able to grasp the meaning and importance of Veterans Day by meeting an actual veteran."

The word **grasp** means

- A confuse
- B understand
- C reject
- D describe

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A a school program that connects students with veterans
- B the major statistics about the number of veterans in America
- C how Veterans Day was created
- D the importance of communication with Veterans

6. According to the article, what does veteran Christopher Bain speak to students about?

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7. Would reading about Veterans Day in a textbook be a more effective way of understanding it than listening to a veteran speak in person? Provide evidence from the article to support your answer.

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

Veterans Day takes place on November 11, \_\_\_\_\_ it used to be in October.

- A because
- B until
- C although
- D since

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In May of 2007, the History Channel launched a program to connect veterans with students across the country.

What? \_\_\_\_\_

(did) What? launched a program

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

When? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** symbolize: to represent, often by a sign or picture.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Guide &amp; Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 840

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

**Passage Summary:** “Meet a Soldier” explains the Take a Veteran to School Day program which connects veterans with students in schools throughout the country. It also provides basic information about veterans and Veterans Day.

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6. According to the article, what does veteran Christopher Bain speak to students about?

**Suggested answer:** Christopher Bain discusses the American flag and his personal story. [paragraphs 1 and 5]

7. Would reading about Veterans Day in a textbook be a more effective way of understanding it than listening to a veteran speak in person? Provide evidence from the article to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** Reading about Veterans Day would probably be a less effective way of understanding it. Teacher Jennifer Rowland emphasized that her students learned to appreciate Veterans Day "by meeting an actual veteran." They particularly enjoyed "trying on and touching an actual [military] helmet," an experience no textbook could provide. [paragraph 4]

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

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9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In May of 2007, the History Channel launched a program to connect veterans with students across the country.

What? **the History Channel**

(did) What? launched a program

Why? **to connect veterans with students**

Where? **across the country**

When? **in May of 2007**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** symbolize: to represent, often by a sign or picture.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.