

# Thanking Brave Americans

## A Day for Our Country's Veterans



Peter Beck/Corbis

Veterans Day is November 11. It is a time to **honor** brave Americans. To honor is to show great respect.

## Our Veterans

Veterans are men and women who have served in the **armed forces**. The armed forces are five groups that keep our country safe. They are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps ("KOHR"), and Coast Guard.

About 23 million veterans live in our country today. Many of those people have fought in wars. They have also served in times of peace.

## Time for Parades



HOU JUN/Xinhau/Landov  
Veterans march in a parade

Many cities have parades on Veterans Day. Bands play music and march down the streets. Veterans march too.



AP Images  
Ride on a float

People wave American flags. The flag is a **symbol** of our freedom. A symbol is an object or a sign that stands for something else. What other symbols of our country can you name?

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

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

1. How does the passage define veterans?

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2. When and why do Americans celebrate Veterans Day?

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3. What is one way described in the passage that Americans honor those who have served in the U.S. military on Veterans Day?

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4. What is this passage mainly about?

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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, many Americans honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces by taking part in parades.*

Who? many Americans

5. (do) What?

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6. When?

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7. How?

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

At Veterans Day parades, people often wave American flags \_\_\_\_\_ they are a symbol of our country's freedom.

- A but
- B because
- C so

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

Vocabulary Word: **serve** (serve): to do a duty in a form of service.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **serve**.
- a. Companies often try to figure out how they can serve their customers better.
  - b. The woman reported to court because she was asked to serve on a jury.
  - c. The students sent care packages to U.S. troops who are serving overseas.
  - d. The U.S. president is elected to serve a four-year term in office.
  - e. The boy's mom volunteered to serve as the head of the school's fundraising group.

10. Complete the following sentence: She **served** her country by

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## Teacher Guide and Answer Key

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 500

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

**Passage Summary:** The passage teaches kids about Veterans Day, a holiday that pays tribute to the brave Americans who have served in the U.S. military. In the article, students learn when Veterans Day is, who veterans are, and how they are honored.

**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. How does the passage define veterans? [Important Detail]**

**Suggested answer:** Veterans are men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The armed forces are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. They help to keep our country safe. Many veterans have fought in wars while others have served the country in times of peace.  
[paragraph 2]

**2. When and why do Americans celebrate Veterans Day? [Important Detail]**

**Suggested answer:** Each year, Americans celebrate Veterans Day on November 11. The day honors former members of the U.S. armed forces who have protected our country. [paragraphs 2,3]

**3. What is one way described in the passage that Americans honor those who have served in the U.S. military on Veterans Day? [Important Detail]**

**Suggested answer:** Parades are held in many cities to honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. At the parades, bands play music and march down streets. Some veterans also take part in the parades. Some people also raise American flags. [paragraphs 4,5]

4. What is this passage mainly about? [Main Idea]

**Suggested answer:** This passage explains who veterans are and why Americans honor them on Veterans Day. On this day, we recognize veterans—the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces—to protect our country. [paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

**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, many Americans honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces by taking part in parades.*

Who? many Americans

5. (do) What? **honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces**

6. When? **on Veterans Day**

7. How? **by taking part in parades**

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

At Veterans Day parades, people often wave American flags \_\_\_\_\_ they are a symbol of our country's freedom.

**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: **serve** (serve): to do a duty in a form of service.

**Step 1:** Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (serve)



- b. Teacher says: "This word is serve. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Serve."]

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

- a. Teacher says: "Serve means to do useful work for your country, an organization or another person."
- b. Teacher says: "In this passage, serve is used to describe Americans who performed official duties for the U.S. armed forces. These Americans provided useful services in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Serve."]

**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: **serve** (serve): to do useful work for your country, an organization or another person.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **serve**.
- a. Companies often try to figure out how they can serve their customers better.
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- e. The boy's mom volunteered to serve as the head of the school's fundraising group.

**Step 4:** Check for student understanding

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

Complete the following sentence:

10. Complete the following sentence: She **served** her country by

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Suggested answer:** She served her country by joining the armed forces.

*Suggested Additional Vocabulary:* brave, respect