

UCF Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials



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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



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Lesson Title	Remembering Our Heroes
Grade(s)	2nd
Time (Minutes/ Days)	60 minutes/4 days

Lesson Overview

Students will read *The Wall* by Eve Bunting, a story of a young boy and his father's visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. to locate his grandfather's name. Students will discuss the importance of remembering and honoring Veterans and create their own classroom wall.

Essential Questions

What is a Veteran?
What is the Vietnam Wall?
What is Memorial Day?
What is Veterans Day?
Why/how do we honor and remember Veterans?
How would you like to be remembered by others?

Florida State Standards

LAFS.2.RL.1.3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
LAFS.2.RI.1.1: Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
LAFS.2.RI.2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.
LAFS.2.RI.2.6: Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.
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.
SS.K.CG.2.3: Define patriotism as the allegiance to one's country.

- Students will identify patriotic holidays and observances (e.g., American

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Founders Month, Celebrate Freedom Week, Constitution Day, Independence Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Medal of Honor Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, Veterans Day).

SS.1.CG.2.2: Describe the characteristics of citizenship in the school community.

- Students will identify characteristics of responsible citizenship (e.g., respect others' property, treat people with dignity, care for the environment, treat animals with kindness).

Required Materials

- One copy of *The Wall* by Eve Bunting.
- Dry Erase Board or Projector
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Eraser
- One Copy of *The Wall* by Eve Bunting Read Aloud Discussion Questions (See Below- Procedure Day 1)
- 5 W's Diagram for each student (See Below)
- Pencils with erasers for each student
- Randolph Wright Ford's Mini-Biography (See Below)
- Veterans Adjective Worksheet (See Below)
- Index Cards
- Tape
- Black Crayons
- White Construction Paper
- Liquid Glue

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify what a Veteran is.
- Identify what Memorial Day is and why we celebrate it in the United States.
- Identify what the Vietnam Wall is and why it is important.
- Identify the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why) in *The Wall* by Eve Bunting.
- Explain the importance of remembering and honoring war Veterans.
- Identify and explain positive ways they would like to be remembered.

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Procedure

Day 1: The teacher will introduce key vocabulary words to assess students' prior knowledge. The teacher will then read the actual definitions of the vocabulary terms aloud with the class. Then, they will read aloud with students *The Wall* by Eve Bunting and answer discussion questions throughout the story. After the read aloud is finished, students will complete a 5 W's & H chart independently, then review the answers and complete the chart aloud with the teacher on the Dry Erase board or projector.

Key Vocabulary Terms:

- 1) Veteran - a person who served in the military
- 2) Memorial Day - a holiday in the United States that honors individuals that died in the military
- 3) The Vietnam Wall - part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. that lists the names of over 58,000 people who died in the Vietnam War

Read Aloud Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Who do you believe the man in the wheelchair is? How do you know? What do you think happened to his legs?
- 2.) Why do you think the old man and woman are crying?
- 3.) Why do you think flowers, teddy bears, roses, and letters are left at the wall?
- 4.) Why do you think it takes the little boy and his dad so long to find the grandpa's name?
- 5.) Why do you think the little boy and his dad touch and rub the grandpa's name?
- 6.) Why do you think the little boy leaves his picture at the wall?
- 7.) How does the little boy and his father feel when they visit The Wall?

Day 2: The teacher will do a brief review of academic vocabulary key terms from Day 1 with students, as well as the events of the story.

- Example: "Last class, we read *The Wall*. Who remembers what the story was about?"

Teachers may refer to the 5 W's Diagram as students recall events of the story. They will then show students an image of a Veteran named Randolph Wright Ford, and an image of his name on the Vietnam Wall. Then, the teacher will provide a brief bio on Randolph Wright Ford. There is a short biography that includes his photo and the image of his name on the Vietnam Wall below.

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- Example: “Randolph Wright Ford fought in the Vietnam War in 1952 and died in 1968 at 32 years old. Here is an image of him and his name on The Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.”

Then, the teacher will hand out a Veterans Adjective worksheet where students discuss and write down 3 adjectives to describe Veterans with the teacher, then complete 2 independently on their own or with a partner.

Day 3: The teacher will do a brief review of academic vocabulary key terms from Day 1 with students, as well as the words they came up with to describe Veterans on Day 2.

- Example: “Last class, we came up with a list of words to describe and remember Veterans, such as brave, strong, etc. Today, we’re going to think of some words that we would like others in our school and community to remember us for, such as happy, helpful, caring, thoughtful, brave (teacher should call on students to assist with coming up with adjectives).”

Students should be provided with one index card each. On the blank side of the index card, students will write their name, and on the lined side, they will write how they would like to be remembered. Students may write sentences or list words. Once students are finished, students will tape their cards on the Classroom Wall similar to The Vietnam Wall in *The Wall*. Students will share the words/sentences written on their cards when they put it on the wall.

Day 4: The teacher will do a brief review of academic vocabulary key terms from Day 1 with students and discuss the way the dad in *The Wall* rubbed the grandpa’s name with pencil on paper as a keepsake to remember him. Teacher will hand each student a sentence strip with their name written in dried glue (Note: please prepare from the day before to ensure the glue dries). Students will then be given a sheet of white construction paper and a black crayon to rub their name from the sentence strip to the construction paper.

Bibliography for Further Reading/Teacher/Student Use

"Battlefield: Timeline." Battlefield: Vietnam. PBS, Accessed August 21, 2024.
<https://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/timeline/>.

Bunting, Eve. 1990. *The Wall*. New York: Clarion Books.

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"Reasons for US Involvement in Vietnam." BBC Bitesize. BBC, Accessed August 21, 2024. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zv7bkqt/revision/2>.

"Vietnam Veterans Memorial- The Names." Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Accessed August 21, 2024. <https://www.vvmf.org/About-The-Wall/the-names/>

"Vietnam War." Naval History and Heritage Command, Accessed August 21, 2024. <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/vietnam-war0.html>.

WHERE

WHEN

WHAT

WHO

WHY

Five large, empty, rounded rectangular boxes for notes, arranged vertically from top to bottom, corresponding to the questions: WHERE, WHEN, WHAT, WHO, and WHY.



A large, empty, rounded rectangular box for notes, positioned below the 'HOW' section header.

NAME:

BOOK:

HOW

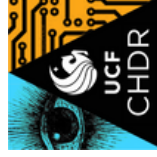


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Randolph Wright Ford



US Military Navy
Vietnam
1935-1968

Randolph Wright Ford was born in 1935 in Gainesville, FL. He had two sisters, Gwendolyn and Charlotte. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1952 and served as a Military Commander/ Unrestricted Line Officer.

He married Frankie Ford and had three children: Leslie, Daniel, and Curtis. Randolph spent sixteen years in military service. While fighting in the Vietnam War, his plane crashed. He was captured as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam on June 11, 1968. He died while he was there on June 20, 1968. He was only 32 years old.

Randolph's name is on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC. His legacy lives on as part of that memorial that honors more than 58,000 Veterans.



Image courtesy of Fold3.com



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Veteran Adjective Worksheet

With the class, come up with three adjectives to describe Veterans.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Next, come up with two more adjectives you think best describe Veterans.

1. _____

2. _____

In the space below, explain why you chose those two adjectives to best describe Veterans.

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