

# UCF Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials



**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration



**Department  
of History**



Lesson Title	History of Patriotic Holidays & Observances
Grade(s)	3rd Grade
Time (Minutes/ Days)	Approximately 3 - 4 days (45 minutes)

## Lesson Overview

Students will research, collaborate, and learn about patriotic holidays, specifically Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

## Essential Questions

Why do we observe these two patriotic holidays (Veterans Day and Memorial Day)?  
What is the significance of these holidays?  
How do citizens observe patriotic holidays?

## Florida State Standards

### 3rd Grade State Standards

**ELA.3.C.4.1 Researching:** Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic from multiple sources.

**ELA.4.C.5.1 Creating and Collaborating:** Arrange multimedia elements to create emphasis in oral or written tasks

**SS.3.CG.2.3** Explain the history and meaning behind patriotic holidays and observances. Students will identify patriotic holidays and observances to include, but not limited to, Patriot Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day.

### English Language Learners

**ELD.K12.ELL.SS.1** English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Social Studies.

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## Gifted Goals

G.K12.3.1.1c Work cooperatively with peers from a variety of perspectives and abilities while obtaining valid research and/or products from research.

## Required Materials

- White Board
- Smartboard
- Computer/iPad
- Paper
- Colored Pencils
- Venn Diagram (See Below)
- [Bay Pines National Cemetery Field Trip Intro Slides](#)
- [Bay Pines National Cemetery Virtual Tour](#)
- Bay Pines National Cemetery Research Graphic Organizer (See Below)
- [Veteran Storybook Template](#)

## Learning Objectives

Students will be able to identify the meaning behind patriotic holidays (Memorial Day and Veterans Day).

Students will be able to explain the history of patriotic holidays.

Students will be able to explain why these holidays are observed.

Students will research a Veteran and create a storybook about their life.

## Procedure

### Day One:

1. Whole Group - Hook: begin lesson with [the American Rap Song](#).
  - a. Ask students to discuss what message they received from the song.
  - b. Record students' responses on the preferred method (whiteboard/paper/etc).
    - i. The purpose of the lesson is for students to be able to explain the history and meaning behind patriotic holidays and observances.

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2. Present powerpoint to have students create their own venn diagram in notebook or line paper. (Optional: Use the template provided below)

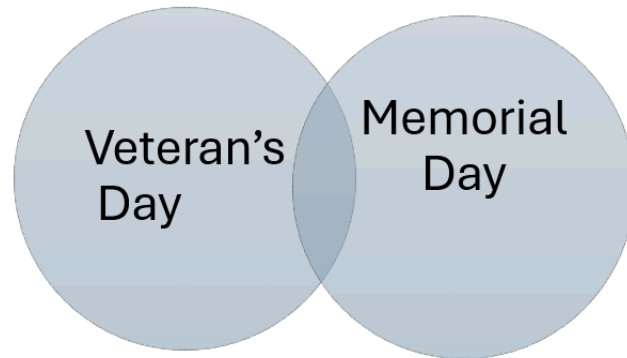
**Instructions:**

Create a Diagram in your notebook or on lined paper

Draw two Circles that connect

In one circle write Veteran's Day

In the next circle write Memorial Day



3. [Present video about Veterans Day.](#)
  - a. Students should watch and listen first.
  - b. Replay video for students a second time to take notes in the Veterans Day column.

ALTERNATIVELY:: Teacher also displays on paper or whiteboard the following (encouraged for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities):

**Veterans Day:** Originally called Armistice Day, Veterans Day honors

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military Veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with the anniversary of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day in 1919 to honor the Veterans of World War I. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor Veterans of all wars. It is a day to express gratitude to those who have served and sacrificed to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

## Day Two:

1. Review Veterans Day column with students prior to presenting Memorial Day information.
2. Instruct students to watch and listen to a story being read aloud about [Memorial Day](#).
3. Afterwards, students will fill in what they recall under the Memorial Day column on the diagram.
4. Once students are finished, ask them to share what they have written and fill in the cumulative class venn diagram from the day prior.

ALTERNATIVELY:: Teacher also displays on paper or whiteboard the following (encouraged for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities):

**Memorial Day:** Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day traces its roots back to the American Civil War. It became an official federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. It is observed on the last Monday of May each year and is marked by various ceremonies, parades, and the decoration of graves with flags and flowers.

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5. Have students discuss the similarities and differences of the two patriotic holidays.
6. Have students record answers in notebook or paper to the two questions using their diagram with notes on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

## Day Three – Four:

For the final days, students will be working/meeting the following standards:

- I. **ELA.3.C.4.1 Researching:** Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic from multiple sources.
  - II. **ELA.4.C.5.1 Creating and Collaborating:** Arrange multimedia elements to create emphasis in oral or written tasks
1. Present students with an [introductory PowerPoint](#) about going on a virtual field trip to Bay Pines National Cemetery. (Please note this is meant for a physical trip to the cemetery, so some slides may be skipped to make more sense for a classroom setting.)
    - a. Discuss with students about the significance of this project and why it is important.
  2. Group students into smaller groups of 2 - 3 students.
  3. Students will be assigned a Veteran from the [Bay Pines National Cemetery](#) virtual tour.
  4. Each group will research the assigned Veteran using their full-length biographies linked in the virtual tour. They will fill out the graphic organizer below while they read the biography.
  5. The group will make a short storybook about the Veteran's life based on their research.
    - a. Each book should have two pages about the Veteran's early life, two pages about their military service, and two pages about their post-war life.
    - b. Each page should have at least 2 sentences on it and a picture.
    - c. Remember, they are telling a story- so their books should read like a short story of the Veteran's life!

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## ENRICHMENT:

Teachers can have students participate in research service projects to support Veterans in the community, such as writing letters, assembling care packages, or volunteering at a Veterans' organization.

### Optional:

These lesson plans can help students deepen their understanding of their country's history, values, and civic responsibilities.

- **Guest Speakers:** Invite Veterans (teachers or staff that have served) to speak to the class about their experiences in the military. Allow students to ask questions and engage in dialogue.
- Teachers may have students choose a book to summarize, create a picture story book, or write a song to commemorate the holiday they researched.
- Add additional patriotic holidays and have students create banners, and/or powerpoints for each holiday that includes a summary explaining the holiday, including the history and a visual representation of the holiday.
  - i. **Medal of Honor Day:** Established in 1990, Medal of Honor Day honors recipients of the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government, the Medal of Honor. This day recognizes the extraordinary bravery and selflessness demonstrated by those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to their country.
  - ii. **Patriot Day:** Patriot Day, observed on September 11th each year, commemorates the tragic events of September 11, 2001, when terrorist attacks killed nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. It serves as a day of remembrance for the lives lost and the heroism displayed by first responders

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and ordinary citizens in the face of adversity.

## Bibliography for Further Reading/Teacher/Student Use

Bald Beagle. "Nuggets of Information: Veterans Day for Kids." November 8, 2020. Educational video. 3:22. Accessed August 27, 2024.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC3Q-N07WY4>

Book League Storytime Adventures. "🇺🇸 Memorial Day Read Aloud - USA Kids Book." May 16, 2024. Educational video. 2:39. Accessed August 27, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esNWwWxDVU4>

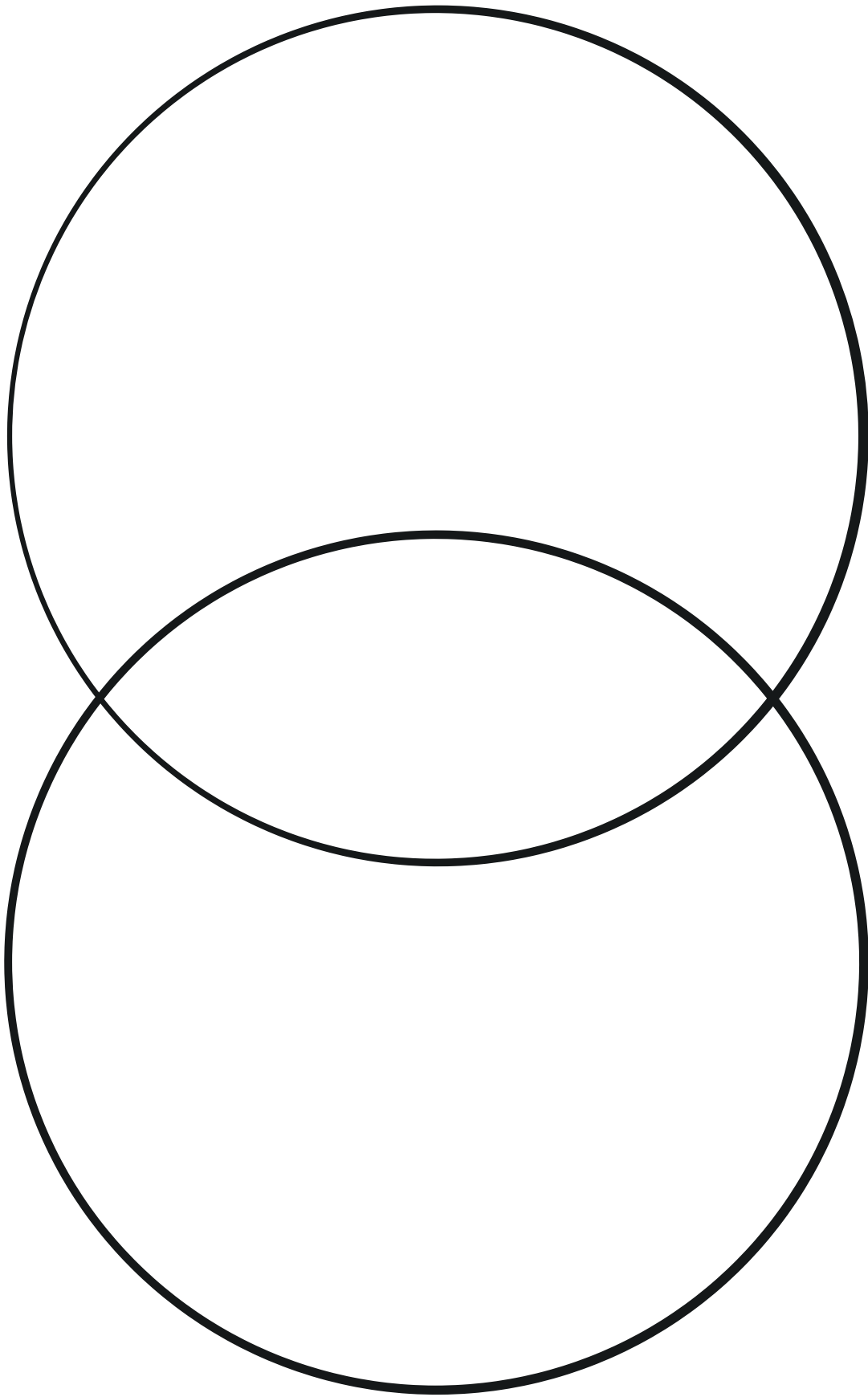
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Smart Songs. "American Flag Rap - Smart Songs." July 26, 2012. Educational video. 4:58. Accessed August 27, 2024. <https://youtu.be/HQJPEQwpK0E>

# Veterans Day Memorial Day

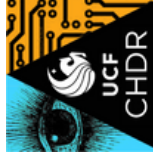


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## Bay Pines National Cemetery Veteran Research Project

In the space below, take notes using the biography of your assigned Veteran in your own words. You will use this information to create a storybook about your Veteran.

[BPNC Virtual Tour](#)

Assigned Veteran:

Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
School and/or Work Details	
Branch of Military Service	



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<p>Military Service Details</p>	
<p>Post-War Details</p>	
<p>Date of Death</p>	



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