

UCF Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials



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Lesson Title	The Importance of the American Flag to Veterans and the United States.
Grade(s)	K-2
Time (Minutes/ Days)	1 week 25 minutes each day

Lesson Overview

Students will learn about the American Flag and what a Veteran is. They will also learn about the history and significance of the flag's anatomy, as well as flag etiquette.

Essential Questions

What is the importance of the American Flag to Veterans and the United States?

Florida State Standards

SS.K.CG.2.4 Recognize symbols that represent the United States.

SS.1.CG.2.3 Recognize ways citizens can demonstrate patriotism.

SS.2.CG.2.3 Explain how citizens demonstrate patriotism.

Required Materials

- American flag
- Index cards
- [Epic account](#) required for teachers and students (Free)
 - [The United States Flag by Kristen Chang](#)
- [Kahoot account](#) (free)
- KWL Chart (See Below)
- Vocabulary List (See Below)

Learning Objectives

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The student will be able to recognize the symbols that represent the United States.

The student will be able to define what a Veteran is.

The student will be able to recognize and explain different ways citizens demonstrate their patriotism.

Procedure

Day 1: What does the American flag represent?

Materials needed: American Flag, KWL chart, Epic account for teacher and students, index cards.

1. The Teacher will ask these questions to begin with a KWL chart to guide instruction about what students' prior knowledge is about the flag:
 - *What do you know about the American flag?*
 - *What do you want to know about the American flag?*
2. The teacher will need to create a free account with Epic.
3. Front-load vocabulary on page 22 prior to reading the text.
 - a. Read definitions and show images corresponding to vocabulary.
 - i. Index cards will also be used to begin the word wall for the unit. (The text can also be displayed on a smart board or screen in the classroom or index cards can be created to help develop their understanding of the vocabulary associated with the text.)
4. Once this has been done, read [The United States Flag by Kirsten Chang](#).

List of questions to ask while reading the text:

1. P. 4

1. Who do you think the group of men are holding the American Flag?

A: American soldiers

2. P. 9

1. What do the stars represent on the flag?

A: The states

2. How many stars are there on the American Flag?

A: 50

3. P. 11

1. Who was the first flag maker?

A: Betsy Ross

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2. What year was the first flag made?

A: 1776

4. P. 12-13

1. What is the meaning of the flag?

A: The United States was its own country and could rule itself.

5. P. 14-15

1. Why are stars added to the flag?

A: New states were added.

2. Can you name two other names for the flag?

A: Stars and Stripes/Old Glory

6. P. 16-17

1. Where are some of the places that fly the American flag? Libraries/government buildings/schools.

7. P. 18-19

1. What day is Flag Day celebrated?

A: June 14

8. P. 20-21

1. What should Americans always do when they see a flag flying or displayed?

A: Show respect

5. At the end of the lesson review the vocabulary and begin the word wall. This book also has a quiz that can be assigned for students to take at the end of the unit.

Day 2: What is a Veteran? What does the United States do to honor them?

Materials needed: Youtube Video, Word Wall Index card.

- Index Card should read:
 - Armistice: an agreement between two opposing sides to end a war
- 1. Begin with asking students questions to guide instruction:
 - Do you know what a Veteran is?
 - Do you have any in your family?
 - Do you know what branch they serve in?
- 2. Watch [this video](#).

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- a. *Stop at 2:11 to add the additional branch: The Space Force.*
 - i. They organize, train, and equip personnel to protect the U.S. and allied interests in space and provide space capabilities to the joint forces.
- b. *Pause the video at 3:48 to discuss armistice.*
 1. *When did WW1 end?*
A: November 11, 1918
 2. *What year was Armistice Day officially celebrated?*
A: November 11, 1919
 3. *Which President renamed Armistice day?*
A: Dwight Eisenhower
3. Introduce National Cemeteries using [this presentation](#) about St. Augustine National Cemetery. Continue using the index cards for vocabulary either before reading the slide or afterward to clear up misconceptions.
 - *Word Wall:*
 - *Eligible: qualified to be chosen or participate;*
 - *Memorialize: to make people remember a person or event.*
4. **Read Aloud:** "We will now read a [short biography](#) of one of the Veterans buried in the cemetery. Please select a biography of your choice."
 - a. Students may pick two if time permits.

If you choose to focus on WWI to connect to the word armistice, the following biographies are about Veterans who fought in the Great War:

- [John Borris](#)
- [Henry Cavicchi](#)
- [Rufe Goins](#)
- [William Otto Grupp](#)
- [Archie Hawkins](#)

5. After you read the biography ask the students:
 - a. Do you think the Veterans were brave? Why? Have students give an example from the text that was read.
6. Review the word armistice and add it to the word wall.

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Day 3: What is the Pledge?

Materials needed: Index cards.

- Use index cards for vocabulary:
 - Allegiance: loyalty and obedience given to one's country or government.
 - Republic: a form of government where representatives of citizens rule.
 - Indivisible: impossible to divide or separate.
 - Liberty: the freedom to exist without being controlled.
- 1. [Use the attached video of the Pledge of Allegiance](#). While viewing the video, stop and discuss actions that people are doing as they recite the pledge. As you view the video, remind the students of the vocabulary or discuss those words.
- *Allow students to state their feelings and opinions on saying the pledge.*
 - a. Stop at 21 seconds: discuss what is being shown.
 - b. Stop at 26 seconds: explain allegiance.
 - c. Stop at 37 seconds: explain what a Republic is and what that means for the United States.
 - d. Stop at 59 seconds: explain indivisible.
 - e. Stop at 1:03: discuss liberty.
- 2. Now that students have a deeper understanding of the significance of the pledge, ask them again what they think about it.
- 3. Activity: Students will draw a picture of what they think the pledge represents.
- 4. Review the vocabulary words and add them to their word wall.

Day 4: Sharing/ Review

1. Review all of the vocabulary words introduced in the unit by playing a [Kahoot](#). The times of the questions can be adjusted according to the level of your students.
2. Students will continue drawing their pictures.

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Day 5: Sharing/ Wrap Up

1. Pull out the KWL chart and have students share what they have learned this week!
2. Once all pictures have been completed, have a Share and Show with the students to have them share their thoughts with the class.
3. **Optional:** also assign the quiz from the book read on the first day of the unit.

Bibliography for Further Reading/Teacher/Student Use

- Chang, Kirsten. *The United States Flag*. Minnetoka: Bellwether Media, 2018. Accessed August 20, 2024.
<https://www.getepic.com/book/61247210/the-united-states-flag>
- STEMHAX. "The Pledge of Allegiance --- Primer for Kids." May 9, 2020. Educational video, 1:52. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lE9uiJuMes>
- UCF & NCA: Veterans Legacy Program. "Biographies." Accessed August 20, 2024.
<https://vlp.coh.ucf.edu/biographies.php>
- UCF & NCA: Veterans Legacy Program. "Mini-Themed Tour Introduction: Going on a Tour of St. Augustine National Cemetery from your Classroom." Instructional Materials. Accessed August 20, 2024.
[UCF-VLP-MiniToursClassroomIntro.pdf](https://vlp.coh.ucf.edu/mini-tours-classroom-intro.pdf)
- United States Space Force. "About the United States Space Force." About Space Force. Accessed August 20, 2024.
<https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/>

VETERANS

K

**What I
Know**

W

**What I
Wonder**

L

**What I
Learned**



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Vocabulary - The American Flag & Veterans

- **Armistice:** an agreement between two opposing sides to end a war
- **Eligible:** qualified to be chosen or participate;
- **Memorialize:** to make people remember a person or event.
- **Allegiance:** loyalty and obedience given to one's country or government.
- **Republic:** a form of government where representatives of citizens rule.
- **Indivisible:** impossible to divide or separate.
- **Liberty:** the freedom to exist without being controlled.



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