



Veterans Day takes place on November 11th! The date marks the end of World War I, which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Originally called Armistice Day, the holiday's name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954. The day honors veterans both living and dead, and provides a wonderful opportunity to teach students about American history and culture.

District Veterans Day Plans:

- "Letters of Gratitude" activity for NCCA students (see more info below)
- List of resources available for teaching students about Veterans Day (see more info below)
- Wear red, white, or blue day (November 10th)
- Patriotic Webex backgrounds available to use the week of Veteran's Day (Nov. 7th-11th)

"Letters of Gratitude" Activity for NCCA Students

Research has demonstrated that showing gratitude is an easy way to lift our mood and general well-being, and letter writing is one of the most [commonly researched](#) and validated means of expressing gratitude. With this in mind, NCCA is sponsoring a "Letters of Gratitude" to our veterans activity. This is a great way for students to practice their letter writing skills!

Letters are due by **November 16th** and can be handwritten or typed. Students unable to write letters are encouraged to share a drawing or other artwork. NCCA Military Liaisons will deliver the letters to NC Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals in time for Thanksgiving for those veterans unable to go home due to illness or injury.

Please send digital copies of the letters/drawings to Maggie Bush at mbush@myncca.com. Letters/drawings can also be mailed directly to NCCA, but need to be received by the due date. Please address items sent by mail to Maggie Bush/Operation Gratitude, 2800 Meridian Pkwy #150, Durham, NC 27713.

Want some ideas for how to conduct a letter writing activity with students? Check out these great resources:

[The Clever Teacher Veteran's Day Letter Writing Activity](#) (elementary)

[Veterans Day Letter Writing](#) (middle school)

[Letter Writing Guidelines \(Operation Gratitude\)](#) (guidelines for all grades with letter templates for elementary)

Resources for teaching students about Veterans Day

(from <https://www.techlearning.com/news/teaching-veterans-day-best-free-digital-resources>)

PBS Lesson Plan: Veterans Day and the Meaning of Sacrifice

This 45 minute teaching Veterans Day lesson plan for middle and high school students includes links to videos, quizzes, and tips on leading discussion activities aimed at helping students understand the history of the day and its ongoing importance.

NEA: Veterans Day in The Classroom

Educators teaching Veterans Day will find a wealth of lesson plans, activities, games, and resources here that are broken down by grade level. In one activity students in grades K-12 view and then interpret Winslow Homer's 1865 painting The Veteran in a New Field.

Scholastic: Veterans Day and Patriotism

Teach your students about some of the symbols, songs, and pledges associated with the U.S. and their significance to veterans with this lesson for grades 3-5. The lesson is designed to be spread over two class sessions.

Discovery Education -- U.S. -- Why We Serve.

This no-cost virtual field trip for upper elementary and middle school students helps teachers and students around the world learn about the importance of service through the stories of two U.S. Congressman who served in the US military.

Veterans' Stories: Struggles for Participation

The Library of Congress maintains this collection of video interviews, documents, and writings that tell the firsthand stories of men and women who served despite being discriminated against based on their race, heritage, or gender. Exploring these resources with your students is a good way to examine the diversity of veteran experience and the ongoing fight for equality within the military. See this [teacher's guide](#) to the collection for more details.

Library of Congress: Primary Sources

For those looking for more primary sources, [this](#) blog post from the Library of Congress details collections, projects, and other resources that teachers can use to get their students to actively learn about Veterans Day.

Teacher Planet: Veterans Day Lessons

Teacher Planet offers educators a variety of resources for teaching Veterans Day ranging from lesson plans to worksheets and activities. For example, there is a lesson plan examining the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. and others looking at significant battles in U.S. history.

[The Teacher's Corner: Veterans Day Resources](#)

Teachers can choose from various lessons and activities that are designed for teaching Veterans Day, including [this](#) printable online Veterans Day scavenger hunt, and lessons such as [honoring our veterans through poetry](#)

[Interview a Veteran](#)

Older students can take the Veterans Day activities outside the classroom by starting an oral history project with local veterans. [Here](#) is an article discussing how two Illinois high school teachers did just that with their students a few years ago.

[Read About Veterans in Historic Newspapers](#)

Your students can read about the [end](#) of World War I, which inspired Veterans Day, as well as get an immediate sense of what life and public opinion was like during past wars by exploring various digital newspaper archives. See Tech & Learning's recent [newspaper archive guide](#) for more information.

[Why Is There No Apostrophe in Veterans Day?](#)

Some students may be tempted to write, "Veteran's Day" or "Veterans' Day," both are incorrect. Grammar Girl explains why in this lesson on singular and plural possessives. This can be a short and timely lesson in grammar around Veterans Day.

Need additional resources or have questions about Veterans Day activities? Contact your NCCA Military Liaisons:

ES: Janice Harris

MS: Twala Timmons

HS: Mackenzie Thomas

District: Maggie Bush