

Social studies

Grade 4

Veterans Day reading comprehension: why we say thank you

Learn the history of November 11, build a timeline and write a thank-you letter to a veteran.



I can explain why Veterans Day is celebrated and put key events on a timeline.

1



The story of November 11



A veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces, such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Space Force. Every year on November 11, Americans honor all veterans for their service.

The date comes from the end of the fighting in World War I. On November 11, 1918, at 11 o'clock in the morning, the fighting stopped. People called this agreement the armistice. The next year, the United States began to mark November 11 as Armistice Day.

In 1938, Armistice Day became a national holiday. In 1954, its name was changed to Veterans Day so that it would honor veterans of all wars, not only World War I.

Veterans Day is different from Memorial Day. Memorial Day, in May, honors people who died while serving. Veterans Day thanks everyone who has served. Many schools hold ceremonies, and people send cards and letters to say thank you.

2



Timeline

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

☐

Armistice Day becomes a national holiday.

☐

The fighting in World War I stops.

☐

The holiday is renamed Veterans Day.

☐

The United States first marks Armistice Day.

3



Check your reading

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a veteran?

A A person who has served in the armed forces

B A kind of doctor

C A holiday parade

2. Why was the name changed to Veterans Day in 1954?

A To honor veterans of all wars

B To move it to May

C Because the war started again

3. What does 'armistice' mean in the text?

A A kind of medal

B An agreement to stop fighting

C A letter

4

**Veterans Day or Memorial Day?**

Circle the right answer.

1. Veterans Day is on November 11.
2. Veterans Day honors only people who died while serving.
3. Memorial Day is in May.
4. The fighting in World War I stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning.

True

False

True

False

True

False

True

False

5

**Dates to know**

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Veterans Day is on November _____.
2. The fighting in World War I stopped in _____.
3. Armistice Day became a national holiday in _____.
4. The name changed to Veterans Day in _____.
5. From 1918 to 1954 is _____ years.

6

**Word meanings**

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

☐

armed forces

☐

ceremony

☐

honor

☐

national holiday



A. to show great respect
for someone



B. a day celebrated across the
whole country



C. groups like the Army, Navy and
Air Force



D. a special event held to mark an
important day

7

**Which day?**

Write each detail in the right column.

on November 11

in May

thanks everyone who has served

honors people who died while serving

began as Armistice Day

held on the last Monday of May

Veterans Day**Memorial Day**

8

**Apply what you read**

Circle the best answer.

1. The fighting stopped in 1918. How many years later did Armistice Day become a national holiday?

A 10

B 20

C 30

2. Grandpa served in the Navy and lives near you today. Which day thanks him for his service?

A Veterans Day

B Memorial Day

C Neither day

3. Why does the author compare Veterans Day with Memorial Day?

A To show they are the same day

B To explain how the two days are different

C To tell a story about a parade

9



Thank-you letter

Write a short thank-you letter to a veteran. Include a greeting, one sentence about what you learned and a closing.

How did it go?



Made with 

Social studies

Grade 4

Answer key

Veterans Day reading comprehension: why we say thank you

Learn the history of November 11, build a timeline and write a thank-you letter to a veteran.



I can explain why Veterans Day is celebrated and put key events on a timeline.

1



The story of November 11



A veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces, such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Space Force. Every year on November 11, Americans honor all veterans for their service.

The date comes from the end of the fighting in World War I. On November 11, 1918, at 11 o'clock in the morning, the fighting stopped. People called this agreement the armistice. The next year, the United States began to mark November 11 as Armistice Day.

In 1938, Armistice Day became a national holiday. In 1954, its name was changed to Veterans Day so that it would honor veterans of all wars, not only World War I.

Veterans Day is different from Memorial Day. Memorial Day, in May, honors people who died while serving. Veterans Day thanks everyone who has served. Many schools hold ceremonies, and people send cards and letters to say thank you.

2 Timeline

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes.

3 Armistice Day becomes a national holiday.

1 The fighting in World War I stops.

4 The holiday is renamed Veterans Day.

2 The United States first marks Armistice Day.

3 Check your reading

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a veteran?

A A person who has served in the armed forces

B A kind of doctor

C A holiday parade

2. Why was the name changed to Veterans Day in 1954?

A To honor veterans of all wars

B To move it to May

C Because the war started again

3. What does 'armistice' mean in the text?

A A kind of medal

B An agreement to stop fighting

C A letter

4 Veterans Day or Memorial Day?

Circle the right answer.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Veterans Day is on November 11. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 2. Veterans Day honors only people who died while serving. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 3. Memorial Day is in May. | ☐ True | ☐ False |
| 4. The fighting in World War I stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning. | ☐ True | ☐ False |

5 Dates to know

Use the text to fill in each blank.

1. Veterans Day is on November 11.
2. The fighting in World War I stopped in 1918.
3. Armistice Day became a national holiday in 1938.
4. The name changed to Veterans Day in 1954.
5. From 1918 to 1954 is 36 years.

6 Word meanings

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ C armed forces | ☐ A. to show great respect for someone |
| ☐ D ceremony | ☐ B. a day celebrated across the whole country |
| ☐ A honor | ☐ C. groups like the Army, Navy and Air Force |
| ☐ B national holiday | ☐ D. a special event held to mark an important day |

7

**Which day?**

Write each detail in the right column.

on November 11

in May

thanks everyone who has served

honors people who died while serving

began as Armistice Day

held on the last Monday of May

Veterans Day

on November 11, thanks everyone who has served, began as Armistice Day

Memorial Day

in May, honors people who died while serving, held on the last Monday of May

8

**Apply what you read**

Circle the best answer.

1. The fighting stopped in 1918. How many years later did Armistice Day become a national holiday?

A 10

B 20

C 30

2. Grandpa served in the Navy and lives near you today. Which day thanks him for his service?

A Veterans Day

B Memorial Day

C Neither day

3. Why does the author compare Veterans Day with Memorial Day?

A To show they are the same day

B To explain how the two days are different

C To tell a story about a parade

9



Thank-you letter

Write a short thank-you letter to a veteran. Include a greeting, one sentence about what you learned and a closing.

Answers vary. Example: Dear Veteran, Thank you for serving our country. I learned that Veterans Day began as Armistice Day in 1919. Sincerely, Sam

How did it go?



Made with 