

Veterans Day

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Name _____

This month's Internet Challenge is about Veterans Day, a special holiday in honor of men and women who have served America during wartime. On November 11th we thank and celebrate America's military veterans for their love of country and willingness to sacrifice for the common good.

Our first web stop is [Celebrate! Holidays in the U.S.A. – Veterans Day](http://www.usis.usemb.se/Holidays/celebrate/Veterans.html). The site is located at <http://www.usis.usemb.se/Holidays/celebrate/Veterans.html>

1. What was the original name of the Veterans Day holiday?
2. How many paragraphs are listed on this Web page?
3. What does this sentence mean in the first paragraph? "*In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated.*"
 - a. At 11:00 on November 11, 1918, the world cheered and celebrated.
 - b. At 11:00 on October 11, 1911, the world cheered and celebrated.
4. In which year did World War I start?
5. Which word in the first paragraph means "peace agreement or truce?"
6. What was the purpose of having a special day called Armistice Day?
7. How was Armistice Day celebrated in the United States?
8. In which year did Congress vote to make Armistice Day a federal holiday?
9. In the fourth paragraph, what does the word "*gratitude*" mean?
 - a. appreciation
 - b. not paying attention
10. How did the celebration of Veterans Day change after the Vietnam War?
11. Which word in the sixth paragraph means "*a period of watchful attention?*"
 - a. vigil
 - b. ignore

12. What does the bright red poppy wildflower represent?

13. In which country is Flanders Field located?

14. In the seventh paragraph, identify the name of another holiday set aside to honor those men and women who have sacrificed their lives in wars.

15. Name two support groups that veterans of military service have created to help raise funds for disabled veterans.

16. Interpret the meaning of the word “disabled” in this sentence:

On Veterans Day and Memorial Day, these groups raise funds for their charitable activities by selling paper poppies made by disabled veterans.

- a. people who grow flowers
- b. persons who are crippled or injured

www.va.gov/pubaff/vetsday/vdnchistory.htm

Read and answer these questions.

17. Which word in the first paragraph is used to mean the “*ending*” of the most destructive, and far reaching war in human history. . . ?”

- a. resumption
- b. cessation

18. Was it hoped that America’s Armistice Holiday would bring about peace through good will and mutual understanding between other nations?

Yes No

19. Why did the 83rd Congress in 1954 change the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day?

20. Which president issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation?”

21. Provide the background and reasons for the Uniform Holiday Bill.

Very good answers!

Let’s browse over to our second web site, [Veterans Day History](#), located at

22. As a result of this Bill, when was Veterans Day celebrated?

23. Why did President Gerald R. Ford sign Public Law 94-97 in 1975?

27. Who keeps watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers?

28. Describe the ceremony that takes place at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day.

Excellent!

Our third and final Web site is "[The American Flag Page – Veterans Day](http://userpages.aug.com/haywire/vetday.html) located at <http://userpages.aug.com/haywire/vetday.html>

24. Where else, besides in the United States, did memorial gestures and celebrations take place to honor the ending of World War I?

25. Which worldwide events occurred that prevented World War I from being the "War that ended all Wars?"

26. What does the word "*interment*" mean in the fifth paragraph? ". . . a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War. . ."

- a. burial
- b. food

29. Who discovered this planet by using his backyard telescope in 1781?

Extension Activity #1:

Do you think Veterans Day should be moved back to the fourth Monday in October or should it remain on November 11th? Explain your reasons.

Extension Activity #2:

Can you think of additional ways to honor our veterans? Select a group of students in your class to form a committee, "Veterans Appreciation Committee." Brainstorm and think of ways to honor veterans in your community (examples: create posters, special cards, write poetry, make speeches, have a parade). Talk with your teacher and see if you can invite veterans in your area to your class or school on November 11th for a mini-celebration to honor them.

Congratulations on completing this Internet Challenge! When 11:00 A.M. arrives on November 11th, take a moment to honor all of the brave men and women who have served their country. We have a lot to thank them for, don't we?

Answers to the Internet Challenge

1. Armistice Day
 2. There are seven paragraphs.
 3. (a)
 4. It started in 1914.
 5. Armistice
 6. This day, Armistice Day, was set aside to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace
 7. On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their hometowns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.
 8. 1938
 9. (a)
 10. After the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, the emphasis on holiday activities has shifted. There are fewer military parades and ceremonies. Veterans gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. to place gifts and stand quiet vigil at the names of their friends and relatives who fell in the Vietnam War. Families who have lost sons and daughters in wars turn their thoughts more toward peace and the avoidance of future wars.
 11. (a)
 12. This bright red wildflower became a symbol of World War I after a bloody battle in a field of poppies called Flanders Field in Belgium.
 13. Belgium
 14. Memorial Day
 15. The two groups are the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
 16. (b)
 17. (b)
 18. Yes
 19. Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. But, in 1954, after World War II and the Korean War had taken place, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans."
 20. President Dwight D. Eisenhower
 21. The Uniforms Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to insure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays- - Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production.
 22. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. However, many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.
 23. The commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.
 24. England and France
 25. The following wars took place: World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
 26. (a)
 27. An Army honor guard, The 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil at the Tomb.
 28. The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.
- Extension Activity #1. [Students' own answers].
- Extension Activity #2. [Students' own answers.]