

Veterans Honor Park - Middle School

Branches of the Military - Teamwork and Individual Accountability

<p>Established Goal To honor, remember and recognize members of the United States armed forces for their vital role in the preservation of freedom throughout history.</p>	<p>Transfer Goal Middle school students who visit the Veterans Honor Park will bring family and friends to the Honor Park AND be able to explain why veterans of the United States armed forces— past, present and future— should be honored through acknowledgement of the sacrifices made, sense of duty and courage they have displayed in service to our country.</p>
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MEANING

<p>Enduring Understandings Participants will understand that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members of the United States armed forces play a vital role in the preservation of our freedom. ● Citizens of the U.S. owe a debt of gratitude to the soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, as well as for those who are able to return from the battlefield unscathed. ● Without the brave efforts of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force and Merchant Marines, this nation, along with our allies around the world, would not stand so boldly, shine so brightly and live so freely. 	<p>Essential Questions Participants will consider...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the role of the United States armed forces in preserving our freedom? ● Why should we honor members of the United States armed forces? ● To what extent can places like The Veterans Honor Park demonstrate our appreciation for our veterans? <p>Topical Questions - Middle School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the power of a team? ● To what extent is the contribution of the individual important to the effort of the team?
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ACQUISITION

<p>Knowledge Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The different branches of the armed services ● The role of the team in the success of the armed service ● The role of the individual in the success of the team 	<p>Skills Participants will be skilled at...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussing the role of each branch of the armed services ● Identifying one team action associated with a branch of the armed services ● Explaining the significance of the event and the importance of teamwork ● Explaining the significance of the event and the role of the individual
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EVIDENCE

Evaluative Criteria	Assessment Evidence
	<p>Transfer Task Students will write a letter to an individual they researched to share their thinking in a more authentic setting.</p>
	<p>Other Evidence Student participation in class discussion and other activities.</p>

LEARNING PLAN

Learning Activities

Prior to visiting the Honor Park

Contact the Veterans Honor Park Committee to let them know when you will be at the Honor Park to schedule the visit and invite interested veterans to attend. <https://vhp.chesterfield.mo.us/>

Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to have students identify the importance of teamwork and individual accountability in the armed services. Students will investigate the role of teamwork demonstrated by a group of soldiers in a branch of the service in a major military conflict within a war (e.g. Operation Overlord) and the role of an individual in ensuring the success of the operation.

Time: Two 45-minute classroom periods

Topical Question:

- What is the power of a team?
- To what extent is the contribution of the individual important to the effort of the team?

Materials Required:

- Access to the Internet
- Access to print resources

Procedures:

1. Project the image of the Veterans Honor Park <https://vhp.chesterfield.mo.us/>
 - a. Have the students examine the image ask the following questions
 - What do you see?
 - What might be happening here?
 - Why do we have parks and memorials?
 - Why is it important to honor our veterans?
2. Explain the history of the Veterans Honor Park and tell students the class will be visiting the park to help them learn more about our armed services and the role of people from the area in preserving their freedom. <https://vhp.chesterfield.mo.us/design-vision.html>
 - Ask the students if any of them had the opportunity to visit the Veterans Honor Park?
 - If yes, ask them to explain what they learned.

3. Explain to the students they will be working in teams to research the finest hour of a group of military personnel who are involved in a mission requiring teamwork. Then each student will research an individual associated with the event. Students will write a thank you letter to the team and to the individual they researched to be shared at the Honor Park. The focus is the two topical questions:
 - What is the power of a team?
 - To what extent is the contribution of the individual important to the effort of the team?
4. Day 1: Research events and the branch of the military associated with the event (if more than one branch is associated with the event focus on one of the branches)
 - Coast Guard Rescue of SS Pendleton and SS Fort Mercer
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom (130 Engineer Brigade)
 - Operation Overlord (WWII)
 - The Battle of the Bulge (WWII)
 - Battle of Iwo Jima (WWII)
 - Bari (WWII)
 - The Battle of Cantigny (WW1)
 - The Chosin Reservoir Campaign (Korean War)
 - Operation Starlite (Vietnam)
5. Day 2: Each team member will research an individual associated with the event. Students will identify the branch of service for which the person served AND write a letter to the person that incorporates what the student learned about the teamwork involved in the event and the individual person and his/her contribution. Students are encouraged to invite a family member to the event at the Honor Park.

At the Honor Park

1. Students will bring their letters to the Honor Park.
2. Students will learn about each branch of service and Tweet about what they learned with a class created hashtag.
3. The teacher will select a few students to read their letter at the military branch site associated with the person they researched.
4. Teacher will facilitate a class discussion around the essential and topical questions.

After Visiting the Honor Park

1. Students will write a brief summary of the team vs. individual concept as related to the military and share their writing with a partner.

Additional Resources

http://www.timeforkids.com/files/TFK_HCLP.pdf

http://www.levy.k12.fl.us/instruction/Instructional_Tools/60FormativeAssessment.pdf

[http://www.history.com/images/media/interactives/take-a-](http://www.history.com/images/media/interactives/take-a-vet/Take%20A%20Vet_How%20to%20Guide_Story%20of%20Vets%20Day[1].pdf)

[vet/Take%20A%20Vet_How%20to%20Guide_Story%20of%20Vets%20Day\[1\].pdf](http://www.history.com/images/media/interactives/take-a-vet/Take%20A%20Vet_How%20to%20Guide_Story%20of%20Vets%20Day[1].pdf)