

NAME: _____



Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a holiday for honoring veterans of the United States armed forces (military). A veteran is someone who has experience in something, so all men and women who have had experience in the U.S. army, navy, air force or marines are veterans of the armed forces.

Veterans Day is observed each year on November 11th—this coming Sunday. November 11th is also the day when many European countries celebrate Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day, to remember the end of World War I in 1918. The formal ending of the First World War came at 11 AM on November 11 - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. An agreement called an *armistice* (truce) was signed then, officially ending the war.



Armistice Day was first recognized in the U.S. in 1919, a year after World War I ended. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1952 when it became a day to honor veterans of all wars, not just those who served in World War I. Today, Veterans Day honors all veterans who have served in the armed forces, whether during war, or in peacetime.

Although it is a legal holiday, only government offices and banks close on Veterans Day. In most places, stores and schools stay open.

Parades and speeches honoring veterans are often held on Veterans Day, and there are also ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Virginia.

This tomb was built in 1921 as a burial place for unknown soldiers killed in World War I. Unidentified soldiers from each war are now buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns. Although Veterans Day is a day to honor living veterans, it is tradition for the president or someone representing the president to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers on Veterans Day.

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1. When do we celebrate Veterans Day in the United States?
2. Whom do we honor on Veterans Day? How are they honored?
3. November 11th was originally called Armistice Day? What does Armistice Day remember?
4. Why was the name of the day changed to Veterans Day?
5. What is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers?
6. Do you think we should have a day for honoring people who have served in the military? Explain your answer!
7. Are you grateful to America's veterans? Why, or why not?