

Memorial Day
Lesson Plan
5th & 6th Grades

Lest We Forget



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 5 th and 6 th	Lesson: Memorial Day; Service-Learning Project on Memorial Day in Remembrance of Our Fallen Heroes

<p>OBJECTIVES: NCSSS, 1. CULTURE Through the study of culture and cultural diversity, learners understand how human beings create, learn, share, and adapt to culture, and appreciate the role of culture in shaping their lives and society, as well the lives and societies of others.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Word Web Worksheet <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group <p>*Before conducting this lesson, make sure you are aware of students who may have parents deployed in the Military, or who may be Gold Star Children.</p>									
MATERIALS:	Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of the Memorial Day Word Web Worksheet; copies of <i>America's White Table</i> Story Elements Worksheet; copies of <i>America's White Table</i> Matching Worksheet; copies of the Making a Memorial Day Quilt Activity.									
Engage: Hook the students	Activity – Hand out the Memorial Day Word Web Worksheet. Give the students a few minutes to complete the word web. Play the History of Memorial Day Video, https://youtu.be/YChfpVD5xpk									
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.	Play the Read Aloud book, <i>America's White Table</i> , author, Margot Theis Raven, Illustrator Mike Benny https://youtu.be/uePSkyqYesE Answer the following Reflection Questions from <i>America's White Table</i> video: Why did the family set up this small white table? What effect did it have on their Uncle John? How do you think setting the white table would affect Veterans that we know today?									
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Decoration Day</td> <td style="width: 33%;">armed forces</td> <td style="width: 33%;">POW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Memorial Day</td> <td>Civil War</td> <td>MIA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poppies</td> <td>Vietnam War</td> <td>Hero</td> </tr> </table>	Decoration Day	armed forces	POW	Memorial Day	Civil War	MIA	Poppies	Vietnam War	Hero
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Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.	Students will complete: the K-W-L Memorial Day Worksheet; <i>America's White Table</i> Story Elements Worksheet; <i>America's White Table</i> Matching Worksheet; draw and color the pieces of the Memorial Day Quilt Drawing sheet									
Evaluate: assessment.	Teacher will choose the items to be used for formal and informal assessment.									
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project	Reminder: The Friday before Memorial Day is National Poppy Day, wear a red poppy in remembrance of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day. For more information on National Poppy Day, go to https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Day Students can pick from many projects, placing small flags on the graves of fallen heroes at a local cemetery; making cards for veterans in a local VA Home, VA Hospital or nursing home; share what you have learned about Memorial Day in class with your family and friends; participate in the Wreaths Across America Youth Service Project available for download here .									

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Student Name _____

Memorial Day Word Web

Write what you know about Memorial Day in the spaces provided. Add spaces if necessary.

The word web consists of two vertical columns of four flowers. Each flower has a horizontal line extending from its center to a blank space for writing. The lines from the left column are on the left, and the lines from the right column are on the right, meeting at a central vertical axis.

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Story Elements for *America's White Table* By Margot Raven

Name of the Story:

Setting:

Characters:

Plot:

Summarize the Story:

Theme (Lesson Learned)

Did you enjoy the story:

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America's White Table By Margot Raven

The table honors the men and women who served in America's Armed Forces, "You are not forgotten so long as there is one left in whom your memory remains."

Write the word from the WORD BANK below.

1. _____ To remind us of the life, and the blood that was shed.
2. _____ Reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.
3. _____ Upside-down to symbolize their inability to share this evening with us.
4. _____ Left empty and tilted to show the missing soldiers.
5. _____ Round to show our everlasting devotion and concern for our fallen and missing comrades.
6. _____ It is white to symbolize the purity of soldiers' motives when answering the call to duty.
7. _____ Often black as a reminder of the isolation, deprivation, and cruel fate our missing.
8. _____ It is red to symbolize our commitment and continued determination to account for our missing.
9. _____ Represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country.
10. _____ Reminds us of the tears endured by those missing and their families who still seek answers.

table	glass	chair	rose	book of faith
salt	napkin	tablecloth	vase tied with ribbon	lemon slice

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Making a Memorial Day Quilt

Using information you learned in America's White Table, draw your version of what a Missing Man Table would look like. In the United States, Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day honors those who have died while serving in the armed forces, and those who are missing in action. In the square below, draw and color a picture to remember and honor the brave men and women who died protecting our freedoms. When all of the pictures are finished, cut out the squares, and join them all together to make a class Memorial Day Remembrance Quilt.

