

8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Lesson Plan  
Remember\*Honor\*Teach



# Wreaths Across America

## Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lesson: Remember*Honor*Teach
<p><b>OBJECTIVES:</b> RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p> <p>8.EE.C.8c Solve real-world and mathematical problems leading to two linear equations in two variables.</p>	<p><b>STRATEGIES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Large Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>MATERIALS:</b></p>	<p>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of <i>Who is Morrill Worcester? What Did He Do With an Idea?</i> Article and Reading Comprehension/Character Worksheet; The Logistics of Moving 2.4 Million Wreaths Math Worksheet; Copies of 10 Special Qualities That Embody Our Veterans-Concrete Poetry Worksheet; Copies of From the Tip Land to a Wreath Maze</p>
<p><b>Engage:</b> Hook the students</p>	<p>Play the YouTube Read Aloud-<i>What Do You Do With an Idea?</i> - Storytime with Daddy   Children's Books Read Aloud; Author: Kobi Yamada, Illustrator: Mae Besom. <a href="https://youtu.be/tBsYv7VgW1U?t=10">https://youtu.be/tBsYv7VgW1U?t=10</a></p> <p>Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner, and share their answer. T/P/S Questions: Where does an idea come from? Why was the boy afraid to tell people about his idea? Why did the idea get bigger?</p>
<p><b>Explore:</b> Students make sense of a concept through observations.</p>	<p>Students will read <i>Who is Morrill Worcester? What Did He Do With an Idea?</i> Students will complete the Reading Comprehension/Character Worksheet.</p> <p>Students will complete The Logistics of Moving 2.4 Million Wreaths Math Worksheet.</p> <p>Play the video: What is a Veterans' Wreath?   Wreaths Across America Veterans' Wreaths <a href="https://youtu.be/5-EW6a_VAs">https://youtu.be/5-EW6a_VAs</a></p> <p>Students will write their own Concrete Poem using the 10 Special Qualities That Embody Our Veterans-Concrete Poetry Worksheet.</p> <p>Students will complete the From the Tip Land to a Wreath Maze Activity.</p>
<p><b>Explain:</b> Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.</p>	<p>work ethic          character          integrity          humility</p> <p>selflessness        modesty        ambitions        aspirations</p> <p>optimism</p>
<p><b>Elaborate:</b> Students apply what they have learned.</p>	<p>Explain to students veterans made a commitment to the service of our country. Veterans make many sacrifices for the freedoms we all enjoy in the United States. Students will brainstorm a way to serve in their local communities in honor of our veterans.</p>
<p><b>Evaluate:</b> assessment.</p>	<p>Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.</p>
<p><b>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</b></p>	<p>Write/design a holiday Thank-You Note to a Veteran mail them to a VA Hospital or VA Home for the holidays! Or chose an activity from the list on the last page to honor our veterans.</p>

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### **Who is Morrill Worcester? What Did He Do With an Idea?**

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12-year-old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Morrill's family continued to make the annual trip to Arlington quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated on the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual "Veterans Honor Parade" that travels the east coast in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths

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Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple:

In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated. And that year, December 13, 2008, was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day".

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. This was accomplished with help from 2,047 sponsorship groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. The organization's goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.

In 2021, 2.4 million wreaths were placed in 3,137 cemeteries by over 2 million volunteers- one third of those volunteers are children and young people.

The wreath-laying is held annually on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes, and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

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**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Positive Character Traits-Who is Morrill Worcester? What Did He Do With an Idea?**

**Directions: After reading the article, read through the following list of positive character traits. Pick 5 from the list that you think best describe Morrill Worcester.**

honest	thoughtful	creative	dependable	hard-working
light-hearted	generous	independent	successful	bright
leader	studious	intelligent	responsible	unselfish
brave	inventive	compassionate	respectful	humble

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write a sentence or 2 explaining why you chose each character trait. Cite evidence from the article to justify your response.**

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

# Wreaths Across America

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**Answer the following questions in complete sentences:**

11. Why did Morrill go to Washington, DC when he was 12 years old?
  
12. Which place that Morrill visited left an indelible impression on him?
  
13. Why did #12 have such a big influence on Morrill?
  
14. When Morrill had a surplus of wreaths in 1992, why did he want to donate the surplus of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery?
  
15. Where did they place the wreaths during the first trip to Arlington National Cemetery?
  
16. How long did the Worcester family quietly carry on this tradition of placing wreaths at Arlington?
  
17. What happened that changed their quiet tradition?
  
18. Why do you think people wanted to help the Worcester family?
  
19. What does this say about the character of Morrill Worcester and what he decided to do with an idea?

# Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

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## ANSWER KEY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**Positive Character Traits-Who is Morrill Worcester? What Did He Do With an Idea?**

**Directions: After reading the article, read through the following list of positive character traits. Pick 5 from the list that you think best describe Morrill Worcester.**

honest	thoughtful	creative	dependable	hard-working
light-hearted	generous	independent	successful	bright
leader	studious	intelligent	responsible	unselfish
brave	inventive	compassionate	respectful	humble

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write a sentence or 2 explaining why you chose each character trait. Cite evidence from the article to justify your response.**

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer the following questions in complete sentences:**

11. Why did Morrill go to Washington, DC when he was 12 years old? **As a 12-year-old, Morrill delivered newspapers for the Bangor Daily News, he won a trip to Washington, DC.**
12. Which place that Morrill visited left an indelible impression on him? **Arlington National Cemetery left an enduring impression on Morrill.**
13. Why did #12 have such a big influence on Morrill? **The trip to Arlington National Cemetery stayed with him into his adult life and reminded him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.**
14. When Morrill had a surplus of wreaths in 1992, why did he want to donate the surplus of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery? **Morrill remembered his trip to Arlington National Cemetery and he wanted to honor those veterans who had made so many sacrifices.**
15. Where did they place the wreaths during the first trip to Arlington National Cemetery? **The first year they carried wreaths to Arlington, they placed the wreaths in an older part of the cemetery that no longer received many visitors.**
16. How long did the Worcester family quietly carry on this tradition of placing wreaths at Arlington? **The Worcester family carried on this tradition of placing wreaths in Arlington National Cemetery from 1992-2005.**
17. What happened that changed their quiet tradition? **In 2005, a photo of the wreaths at Arlington with snow all around them was published on the internet, and when people saw the pictures, they wanted to know how they could help honor our veterans.**
18. Why do you think people wanted to help the Worcester family?  
**Answers will vary.**
19. What does this say about the character of Morrill Worcester and what he decided to do with an idea?  
**Answers will vary.**



# Wreaths Across America

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### The Logistics of Moving 2.4 Million Wreaths

1. Loading the trailer of an 18-wheeler with wreaths: there are 9 wreaths packed in each box, there are 24 boxes per pallet, there are 30 pallets on each truck. How many wreaths are in each trailer?
2. How many trailers would it take to haul 2,400,000 wreaths? (Round your answer down to a full load.) How many wreaths will have to go in a partial load?
3. If Mr. J.T. takes a full load of wreaths to a distribution center and offloads 25% of the wreaths at the first distribution center, how many wreaths does Mr. J.T. offload at the first distribution center?
4. If Mr. J.T. delivers one third of the remaining wreaths in his trailer at the second distribution center, how many wreaths does Mr. J.T. offload at the second distribution center?
5. Mr. J.T. delivers 50% of the remaining wreaths in his trailer to the third distribution center. How many wreaths does Mr. J.T. deliver to the third distribution center?
6. How many wreaths are left on the trailer for Mr. J.T.'s fourth offload?

DISTANCE = SPEED  $\times$  TIME

SPEED = DISTANCE  $\div$  TIME

TIME = DISTANCE  $\div$  SPEED

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7. Mr. Jimmy drives his 18-wheeler full of wreaths 400 miles in 8 hours. Mr. Don drives his 18-wheeler 200 miles in 4.5 hours. Who is travelling faster?

8. Mr. Jimmy is hauling a load of wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Boise, Idaho, a distance of 2,498 miles. Using Mr. Jimmy's average speed from question number 6, how many hours will it take Mr. Jimmy to drive to Boise, Idaho?

9. The Department of Transportation rules for drivers with a Commercial Driver's License are different from people with a regular driver's license. According to the DOT, Mr. Jimmy can drive 8 hours with a 3-hour break and then he can drive 3 more hours for a total of 11 hours of driving time out of 24 hours. How many days will it take Mr. Jimmy to drive to Boise?

10. An 18-wheeler averages 6 miles per gallon of diesel fuel. How many gallons of fuel will it take Mr. Jimmy to drive from Maine to Idaho?

11. If diesel fuel cost \$5.25 per gallon, how much will the diesel fuel cost for Mr. Jimmy to haul wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Boise, Idaho? (use the answer from # 9)

12. Wreaths Across America volunteers place 250,000 wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day. How many tractor-trailers are needed to haul 250,000 wreaths? (Round up if needed)

13. The Wreaths Across America Convoy from Columbia Falls, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery travels 737 miles to place wreaths at Arlington on National Wreaths Across America Day. How many gallons of diesel fuel will be needed to fuel the trucks?

# Wreaths Across America

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### Answer Key

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Logistics of Moving 2.4 Million Wreaths

1. Loading the trailer of an 18-wheeler with wreaths: there are 9 wreaths packed in each box, there are 24 boxes per pallet, there are 30 pallets on each truck. How many wreaths are in each trailer?

$$9 \times 24 = 216$$

$$216 \times 30 = \mathbf{6480 \text{ wreaths are in each trailer.}}$$

2. How many trailers would it take to haul 2,400,000 wreaths? (Round your answer down to a full load.) How many wreaths will have to go in a partial load?

$$2,400,000 \div 6480 = 370.37$$

**370 trailers full of wreaths**

$$370 \times 6480 = 2,397,600$$

$$2,400,000 - 2,397,600 = \mathbf{2,400 \text{ wreaths will go in a partial load}}$$

3. If Mr. J.T. takes a full load of wreaths to a distribution center and offloads 25% of the wreaths at the first distribution center, how many wreaths does Mr. J.T. offload at the first distribution center?

$$6,480 \times 25\% = \mathbf{1620 \text{ wreaths are dropped at the first distribution center}}$$

4. If Mr. J.T. delivers one third of the remaining wreaths in his trailer at the second distribution center, how many wreaths does Mr. J.T. offload at the second distribution center?

$$6,480 - 1620 = 4860$$

$$4860 \div 3 = \mathbf{1620 \text{ wreaths are dropped at the second distribution center}}$$

5. Mr. J.T. delivers 50% of the remaining wreaths in his trailer to the third distribution center. How many wreaths does Mr. J.T. deliver to the third distribution center?

$$4860 - 1620 = 3,240$$

$$3,240 \times 50\% = \mathbf{1620 \text{ wreaths are dropped at the third distribution center}}$$

6. How many wreaths are left on the trailer for Mr. J.T.'s fourth offload?

$$3,240 - 1620 = \mathbf{1620 \text{ wreaths are left for the fourth distribution center}}$$

$$\text{DISTANCE} = \text{SPEED} \times \text{TIME}$$

$$\text{SPEED} = \text{DISTANCE} \div \text{TIME}$$

$$\text{TIME} = \text{DISTANCE} \div \text{SPEED}$$

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7. Mr. Jimmy drives his 18-wheeler full of wreaths 400 miles in 8 hours. Mr. Don drives his 18-wheeler 200 miles in 4.5 hours. Who is travelling faster?

$$S = D \div T \text{ (Mr. Jimmy } 400 \div 8 = 50) \text{ (Mr. Don } 200 \div 4.5 = 44.4)$$

Mr. Jimmy is driving 50mph, and Mr. Don is driving 44.44 mph. **Mr. Jimmy is driving faster.**

8. Mr. Jimmy is hauling a load of wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Boise, Idaho, a distance of 2,498 miles. Using Mr. Jimmy's average speed from question number 6, how many hours will it take Mr. Jimmy to drive to Boise, Idaho?

$$T = D \div S, \quad T = 2498 \div 50$$

$$T = 49.96 \text{ hours}$$

9. The Department of Transportation rules for drivers with a Commercial Driver's License are different from people with a regular driver's license. According to the DOT, Mr. Jimmy can drive 8 hours with a 3-hour break and then he can drive 3 more hours for a total of 11 hours of driving time out of 24 hours. How many days will it take Mr. Jimmy to drive to Boise?

$$49.96 \div 11 = 4.5 \text{ days}$$

10. An 18-wheeler averages 6 miles per gallon of diesel fuel. How many gallons of fuel will it take Mr. Jimmy to drive from Maine to Idaho?

$$2498 \div 6 = 416.3 \text{ gallons of fuel}$$

11. If diesel fuel cost \$5.25 per gallon, how much will the diesel fuel cost for Mr. Jimmy to haul wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Boise, Idaho? (use the answer from # 9)

$$416.3 \times 5.25 = \$2,185.58$$

12. Wreaths Across America volunteers place 250,000 wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day. How many tractor-trailers are needed to haul 250,000 wreaths? (Round up if needed)

$$250,000 \div 6480 = 38.58$$

**39 tractor-trailers will be needed to carry 250,000 wreaths to ANC**

13. The Wreaths Across America Convoy from Columbia Falls, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery travels 737 miles to place wreaths at Arlington on National Wreaths Across America Day. How many gallons of diesel fuel will be needed to fuel the trucks?

$$737 \div 6 = 122.83 \text{ gallons}$$

$$39 \times 122.83 = 4790.37 \text{ gallons}$$

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Visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) to learn about our mission to *Remember, Honor, Teach*, sponsor a wreath for a veteran at any participating cemetery or sign up to volunteer.

*A veterans' wreath is a symbol of **HONOR, RESPECT, and VICTORY.***



**10 BALSAM BOUQUETS** make up each veterans' wreath, representing the

**10 SPECIAL QUALITIES** that our veterans embody.



Evergreens =  
**LONGEVITY  
& ENDURANCE**



Red Bow =  
**GREAT  
SACRIFICE**



Forest Scent =  
**PURITY &  
SIMPLICITY**



Circular Shape =  
**ETERNITY**

1. Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
2. Their **LOVE** for each other
3. Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic, & character
4. Their **HONESTY** & integrity
5. Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness, & modesty
6. Their **AMBITIONS** & aspirations
7. Their **OPTIMISM** for America
8. Their **CONCERN** for the future
9. Their **PRIDE** in their duties
10. Their **HOPES & DREAMS** that didn't always come true, but left them with no regrets

# Wreaths Across America

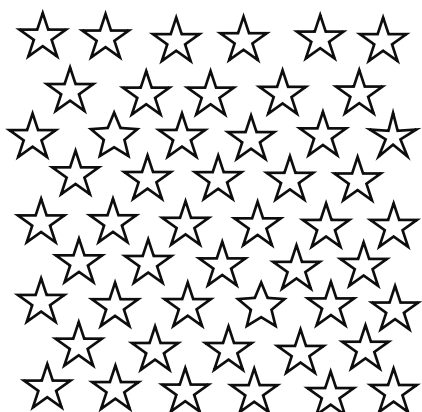
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### 10 Special Qualities That Embody Our Veterans-Concrete Poetry

**Concrete poetry**—sometimes also called ‘shape poetry’—is poetry whose visual appearance matches the topic of the poem. The words form shapes which illustrate the poem’s subject as a picture, as well as through their literal meaning. **Outline Poems**-A common way to make the visual structure reflect the subject of the poem is to fill an outline shape that relates to the topic of the poem. The words in this type of poetry, unlike traditional poetry, do not have to rhyme. Here is an example of a concrete poem, that includes all 10 of the Qualities that Our Veterans Embody:

	<p>Their belief in a greater good * Their love for each other * Their strength, work ethic and character * Their honesty and integrity * Their humility, selflessness, and modesty * Their ambitions and aspirations * Their optimism for America * Their concern for the future * Their pride in their duties * Their hopes and dreams that didn’t always come true, but left them with no regrets * Their belief in a greater good * Their love for each other * Their strength, work ethic and character * Their honesty and integrity * Their humility, selflessness, and modesty * Their ambitions and aspirations * Their optimism for America * Their concern for the future * Their pride in their duties * Their hopes and dreams that didn’t always come true, but left them with no regrets * Their belief in a greater good * Their love for each other * Their strength, work ....</p>
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**NOW, It is Time to Write Your Concrete Poem**  
**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Choose one of the Veterans’ Qualities from the list on the right for your poem. Think of a shape that represents the quality you selected.
2. Draw a simple outline of its shape on paper or on the computer. If you’re using paper, draw with a pencil not a pen.
3. Write your poem normally. Try to describe how the subject makes you feel. The words will be fitted into your drawing, so don’t make it too long!!
4. Remember, the poem does not have to rhyme.

1. Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
2. Their **LOVE** for each other
3. Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic, & character
4. Their **HONESTY** & integrity
5. Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness, & modesty
6. Their **AMBITIONS** & aspirations
7. Their **OPTIMISM** for America
8. Their **CONCERN** for the future
9. Their **PRIDE** in their duties
10. Their **HOPES & DREAMS** that didn’t always come true, but left them with no regrets

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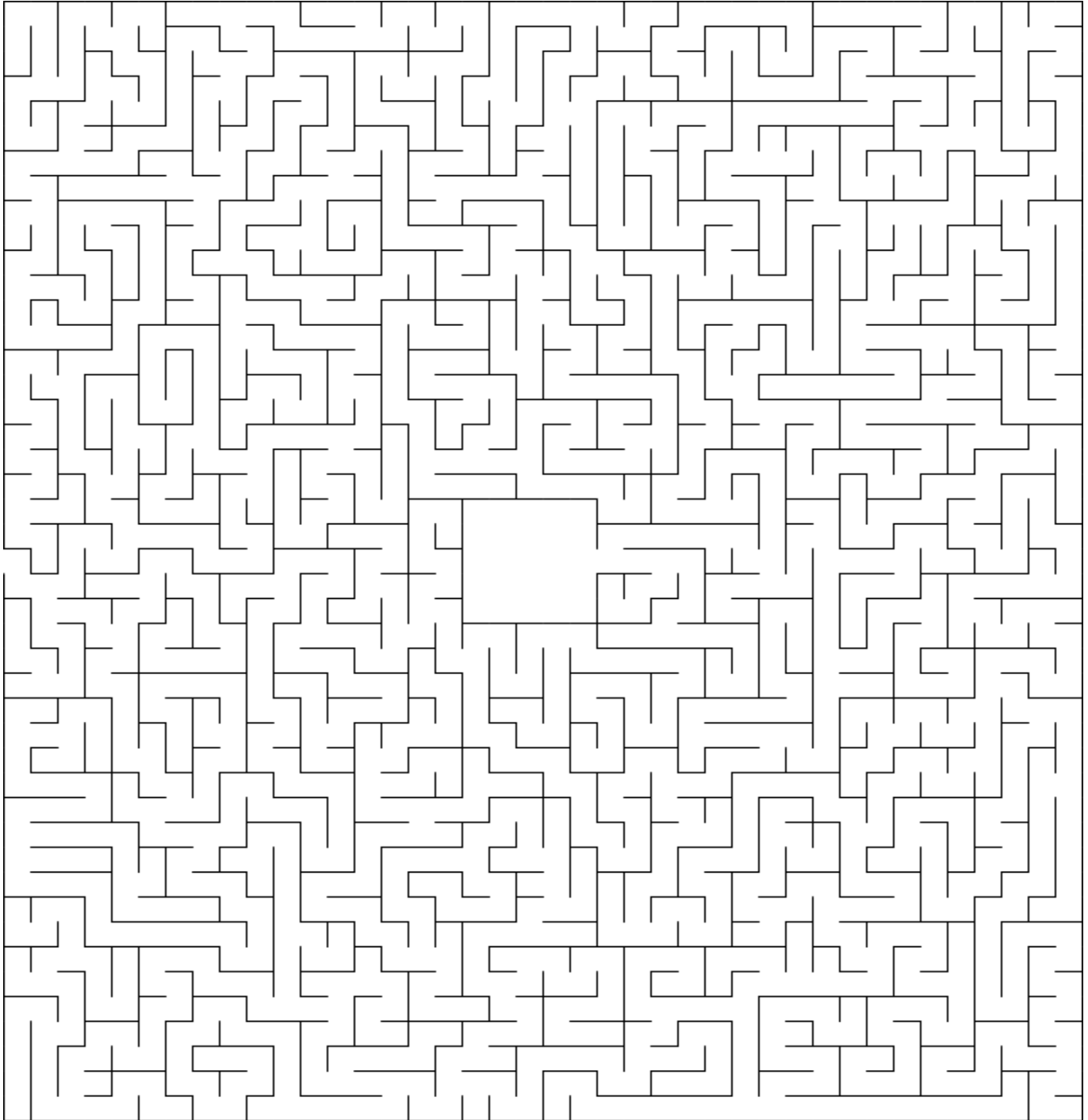
Name \_\_\_\_\_



**FROM the TIP LAND to a WREATH MAZE**



Enter



# Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

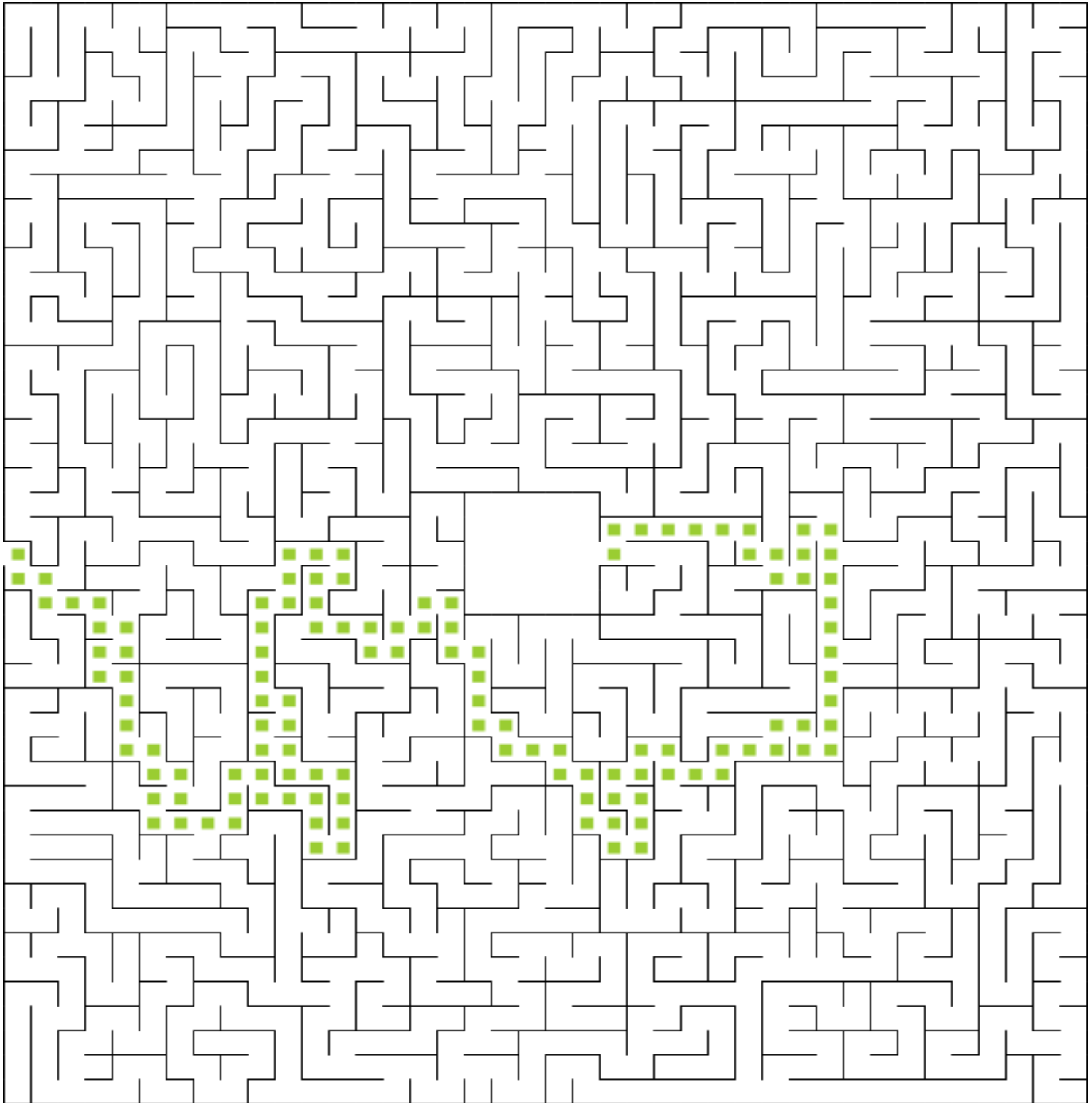
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**ANSWER KEY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



FROM the TIP LAND to a WREATH MAZE





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### “Find a Way to Serve”

- Help an elderly neighbor with yard work.
- Volunteer at your local library.
- Create “Survival Back-Packs” for the homeless with socks, caps, gloves, toothpaste, a toothbrush and other toiletries to be distributed to homeless people in your community.
- Organize a Checkers, board game or card game tournament at your local nursing home. Coordinate with the nursing home staff and plan a fun afternoon for the residents and students alike!
- Write letters to be included in soldier care packages. [Operation Gratitude](#) sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.
- Collaborate with teachers, students, administration, and parents to create a food “Back-Pack” pantry at your school for students who may have food insecurities at home. Twenty-two million children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only meals they eat during the day.
- Make a “New Student Kit” for students who are new to your school. Create a list of school clubs, a calendar of events, school lunch menus, map of the school, and something with the school mascot to help the student feel like they are welcome.
- Organize a Zoom Meeting between your class at school and local nursing home residents. Discuss what their childhoods were like growing up, what kind of classes they took in school. Did they live in town or in the country, what kinds of chores and activities did they participate in when they were your age. Document their responses and share with other classes in your school. If some of your interviewees have a talent like singing or playing the piano, maybe they could share those talents with the class the next time you Zoom. Once you have met the residents, select a “pin-pal” you can correspond with by letter every few weeks.
- Be a companion to a senior citizen in a local nursing home. Make cards, surprise them with visits around their birthday or sing carols for them around the holidays.
- Organize a coat drive in your school/community that collects new and slightly used coats as part of [ONEWARMCOAT.org](#)
- Use AARP’s [Create the Good Guide](#) to start recycling events in your community.

