



Teacher Curriculum Packet

Grades 4th - 5th



Hello Heroes

D-DAY+
1944-2024

80



Presented by the
Eisenhower Foundation

Hello Heroes

A Letter Writing Project

INTRODUCTION

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Veterans Day Bill in 1954. To honor this important day, the “Hello Heroes” letter writing activity connects students with a World War II veteran. As the 80th anniversary of D-Day approaches, “Hello Heroes” bridges generations.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn the history behind Veterans Day and who is a Veteran.
- Students will write letters to World War II veterans.
- Students will gain knowledge about World War II veterans and letter writing skills.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

For English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects

Grade Level		4th - 5th
Standard	RI - Reading Informative Text	4.3, 5.3
	W - Writing	4.4, 5.4
	SL - Speaking and Listening	4.1, 5.1

CONTENTS

3	Lesson Plan
4	Facilitator Remarks
5	Background Briefing*
6	Sample Student Letter*
7	Veteran Letter Paper*
8-16	Veteran Address Cards & Labels* #

*Pre -Printing Required
#Email IKEd1890@eisenhowerfoundation.net to obtain copy

TARGET AUDIENCE Grades 4-5

TIME REQUIRED 50 minutes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This unit was produced in September 2023 by the Eisenhower Foundation staff, Mary Hildebrand, Lisa Kijowski, Emily Miller, and Katie Pearson.

Lesson Plan

1. Prepare for this lesson by emailing iked1890@eisenhowerfoundation.net for the Veteran Address Cards.
2. Pre-print the following pages:
5-6: One copy per student, double-sided
7: One copy per student
8-14: Print enough Veteran Address Cards for one per student
3. Give each student the **Background Briefing** (page 5) and **Sample Letter** (page 6).
4. Introduce the lesson to students. See the **Facilitator Remarks** (page 4) for guidance.
5. Hand out one **Veteran Information Card** per student (pages 8-14) and review the **Background Briefing Letter Writing Tips** (page 5).
6. Read the **Sample Letter** (page 6) together as a class.
7. Ask students to take out a piece of scratch paper to write their “Sloppy Copy” veteran letter.
8. Once students are happy with their draft letter, pass out the **Veteran Letter Paper** (page 7) and have them write their final letter.
9. When students are done writing their letter, hand out envelopes for them to address or use the **Veteran Address Labels** (pages 15-16), and stamp.
 - a. If you don't have addresses for local veterans, please contact the Eisenhower Foundation.
10. If possible, email copies of the students' letters to the Eisenhower Foundation at info@eisenhowerfoundation.net.
11. Mail the student letters to the veterans.

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INTRODUCTION

Who is a veteran?

A person who has had long experience in a particular field (i.e., veteran athletes, veteran teachers, etc.).

Who is a war or military veteran?

A military veteran is a person who is no longer in the military. Military veterans served in the Army, naval, or air service and were discharged or released. Not all veterans served in a war; some served in what are called "military conflicts."

Who is A World War II Veteran?

World War II Veterans served from September 1, 1939, to September 1, 1945.

What was World War II?

World War II was a war that involved virtually every part of the world from 1939 to 1945. The fight was between two powers: the Allies (United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union, France) and the Axis (Germany, Italy, and Japan). The United States entered the war on December 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, an American Navy base.

What are the origins of Veterans' Day?

Veterans' Day dates back to World War I. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in the year 1918, World War I came to an end when an armistice, or temporary stop to fighting, went into effect.

One year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. In 1938, Armistice Day on November 11 became a legal holiday, primarily to honor veterans of World War I.

When was Veterans' Day established?

By 1954, our nation's armed forces had seen battle in World War II and in Korea. Congress passed HR 7786 "to expand the significance of Armistice Day and to change its name to Veterans' Day...in order that a grateful nation, on a day dedicated to the cause of world peace, may pay proper homage to all its veterans who have contributed so much to that cause."

President Eisenhower signed the Veterans' Day Bill in 1954, renaming Armistice Day (World War I) to Veterans' Day to honor all veterans on November 11 each year.

President Eisenhower released a Proclamation, stating, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

HELLO HEROES ACTIVITY

To honor veterans on Veterans' Day, we are going to write letters to World War II veterans. I'm going to give you each a Veteran Information Card that will tell you the name, address, and, in some cases, information about the veteran. First, we will write a "sloppy copy" letter, then we will use special paper to write your final letter. Once done, you will address your envelope, put a stamp on it, and get it ready to mail.

Background Briefing

NOTES ON VETERANS DAY

- * A **Military Veteran** is a person no longer in the military.
- * Veterans' Day was originally called "**Armistice Day**" after World War I.
- * After World War II and the Korean War, this day was expanded to include all military veterans by **President Dwight D. Eisenhower**.
- * **Veterans' Day** is observed every year on **November 11th**.
- * President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the **Veterans' Day Bill** in 1954.



LETTER WRITING TIPS

Introduce Yourself

- Name
- Age
- Grade
- Interests
- Family
- Pets

Thank You

- Thank you for giving your time to serve.
- Thank you for putting your life on hold to protect us.

Ask Questions

- Why did you join the military?
- What years were you in the service?
- What was your job?
- What branch of service were you in?
- What was your rank?
- Where was your training and what was it like?
- Where were you stationed and what did you think when you arrived?
- Did you have any funny experiences?
- What things did you like or dislike about military life?
- What was your best day in the military?
- Tell me about the friends you made.


“On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.”

- **President Dwight D. Eisenhower**

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SAMPLE LETTER



October 14, 2023

Dear Mr. James,

My name is Amy Sue. I'm in the 4th grade at Eisenhower School in Abilene, Kansas. I like to read, take trips with my family, play games, and make art projects. I have a baby sister named Collet. I also have 2 cats and 1 dog. I live with my family in the country. My Dad is a farmer and my Mom is a nurse.

I want to thank you for fighting for our country in WWII. I saw a book about WWII in our school library. I was happy when I found out I could write to you. I would like to know where you were stationed? What branch of the military were you in and what was your rank? What job did you have when you served? Do you have a good story you would like to share?

