Thank You, Veterans!

Reading 1 · Nonfiction · Grades 2–3

Name _____ Date _____

Every year on November 11, Americans celebrate Veterans Day. On this day, we honor veterans. A veteran is a person who served in the United States military. The military has six branches: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard. Some veterans served for a few years and some for many years. Some served during wars, and some served in times of peace.

Veterans Day began after World War I, which lasted from 1914 to 1918. Near the end of the war, the countries that were fighting agreed to an armistice, which is an agreement to stop fighting. The fighting stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning on November 11, 1918. People called it the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

One year later, the United States marked the first Armistice Day. In 1954, the holiday was renamed Veterans Day so that it would honor the veterans of every war.

Some people mix up Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Memorial Day, in May, is a day to remember those who died while serving. Veterans Day is a day to thank all veterans, including the many who are living today.

How can you celebrate? You can go to a parade, fly the flag, or write a thank-you letter to a veteran. Many schools invite veterans to visit. If you know a veteran, you can simply say, "Thank you for your service."

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