



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration



This project was funded by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Understanding Our Veterans

Designed for English learners, recent arrivals, and special education students

Grade Level: 6-12

Duration: 45 minutes

Objectives:

- Students who may lack background knowledge in the areas of our military will understand the definition of a veteran and what it means to serve in the military.
- Students will learn about the different branches of the military and the roles they play in serving our country.

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard or blackboard
- Markers or chalk
- Handout (below) with information about the different branches of the military and their roles
- [Slideshow](#)

Introduction (5 minutes):

- Inform the students that they will be learning about various branches of the US military and learning basic terms. They will do some very basic research and share with one another.

Direct Instruction (20 minutes):

- Using the [attached slideshow](#), discuss the different branches of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard) and their roles in serving our country. Provide a brief overview of each branch with the attached slideshow and how they contribute to our nation's defense. Distribute the handout with additional information about each branch and their roles.

Guided Practice (10 minutes):

- Divide the class into six small groups and have them research an individual branch, filling out the cards in the handout. This can also be done with posters for a gallery walk-style activity.

Pair-Share or Gallery Walk (10 minutes):

- Bring the class back together and have a final discussion about the sacrifices that veterans have made and the impact they have on our society. Emphasize the importance of recognizing and appreciating the contributions of veterans and their families.

Assessment:

- Observe students during the discussion and small group activities to ensure they are understanding the information presented. Collect the handouts at the end of the lesson to assess their knowledge of the different branches of the military and their roles.

The Army: - Basic definition: - Size: - Date founded: - One fact:	The Navy: - Basic definition: - Size: - Date founded: - One fact:
The Air Force: - Basic definition: - Size: - Date founded: - One fact:	The Marine Corps: - Basic definition: - Size: - Date founded: - One fact:
The Coast Guard: - Basic definition: - Size: - Date founded: - One fact:	The National Guard - Basic definition: - Size: - Date founded: - One fact: