



Veterans Heritage Learning Center Lesson Plan

Honoring Local Veterans

Grade Level: Middle School/High School

Subject: Social Studies / History

Point of Interest: Inside the VHLC - Local Heroes Kiosks; Interactive Kiosks, Static Wall Exhibits

Objectives:

- Students will research and write detailed profiles of local/historical veterans.
- Students will analyze key events or facts related to each veteran's service.
- Students will develop an understanding of the personal histories and contributions of veterans.

Materials Needed:

- Photos and brief bios of local veterans (displayed around the room)
- Access to research materials (books, articles, internet)
- Writing supplies (notebooks, pens, or computers)

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (15 minutes):

1. **Discussion:** Begin with a class discussion about the importance of honoring veterans. Ask students what they know about local veterans and their experiences.
2. **Objective Overview:** Explain the objectives of the lesson and the assignment.

Activity (45-60 minutes):

1. **Exploration:** Allow students to walk around the room and observe the profiles of local veterans displayed on the kiosks and within the interactive kiosks.
2. **Selection:** Have each student choose three veterans they would like to research further.
3. **Research:** Using the graphic organizer, students will gather detailed information about each veteran, focusing on one key event or fact (e.g., a significant battle, an award received, or personal history). Encourage them to look for:
 - Background information (where they served, roles, etc.)
 - Historical context (the conflict or war in which they served)
 - Personal anecdotes or significant contributions.

Content Creation (30-45 minutes):

1. **Profile Creation:** Students will outline a detailed profile for each chosen veteran, highlighting their key event or fact. Profiles should include:
 - Introduction to the veteran
 - Description of the chosen event or fact

- Reflection on the significance of their service and contributions

The final product can be a blog post, social media post, or short video. At least one graphic should be included.

Closure (15 minutes):

1. **Sharing:** Invite students to share one interesting fact from their profiles with the class. This can foster discussion and further exploration of veterans' stories.
2. **Reflection:** Conclude with a discussion on what students learned about the veterans and the importance of preserving their stories.

Assessment:

- Evaluate the written profiles for clarity, detail, and depth of research.
- Assess participation during discussions and sharing sessions.

Extensions:

- Create a bulletin board display or webpage/published slides featuring the student profiles to honor local veterans.
- Invite a local veteran to speak to the class about their experiences.
- Organize a community event where students present their profiles to veterans and their families.

This lesson plan provides a structured approach to learning about and honoring local veterans while encouraging research, writing, and critical thinking skills.