

MIDDLE SCHOOL

American History

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA UNIT

This is an ongoing unit of study designed to have students develop a better understanding of the importance of Veterans in America's history. Wreaths Across America (WAA) was started in 2006 to expand students and community education by putting veterans together with children through the mission statement "Remember, Honor, Teach". (Remember the fallen; Honor those who served; and Teach our children the value of freedom.)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS STUDENT UNDERSTANDING GSE/PLE

- How can students promote honor and gratitude for the contribution of servicemen by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies nationwide?
- How can students expand the recognition of those who serve our country past, present and future as well as the families of veterans who deserve our support?
- How can students acknowledge and identify some sacrifices families make when a loved one serves America?
- How can students assemble, organize, and distribute media to educate the public of the WAA mission?
- Students will explain what the mission statement "Remember, Honor, Teach" means to them.
- Students will research a conflict in American History to develop a background for researching an individual Veteran.
- Students will research a local/national Veteran to gain insight as to their unique individual experiences.
- Students will develop and organize a community project honoring local Veterans school wide.
- Students will develop and organize a project to honor Veterans locally.

National Council for Social Studies Standards

1. Culture A, B, C, D, E
2. Time, Continuity and Change- A-C-D-E
4. Individual Development and Identity A-B-C-H
5. Individual, Groups and Institutions A-B-C-D-E-F-G
6. Power, Authority, and Governance- A-C-D-E-F-H-I
9. Global Connections B-F
10. Civic Ideal and Practices- A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J

Resources-This is the second year of this unit of study and as such, the resources and activities may change. Contact your local participating location to find out how your school can participate at an event.

Other resources/activities are:

- Wreaths Across America website - www.wreathscrossamerica.org
- Field Trip - 8th Grade Students.
- Internet-various websites relating to Veterans and wars for community research.
- First person accounts from Veterans.
- Military Officer Magazine. (Official magazine of military officers - <http://www.moaa.org>)
- Veterans Affairs Office (a great place for resources)
- Sons of the American Revolution
- United States Air Force - Staff Sergeant William Clark liaison to school. Will provide military band member to perform Taps during ceremony.

- Contact local radio station will discuss Wreaths Across America project.
- Provide local newspapers with information of Wreaths Across America project.
- World War II Veterans Association
- Disabled Veterans Association (a great place for resources)
- DVD from Wreaths Across America available upon request to show students.

We would like to give special thanks to the Ponaganset Middle School for helping set up this curriculum.