

# TRAVIS MANION FOUNDATION VETERANS DAY ACTIVITY GUIDE



## ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This resource guide contains activities for students in grades K-12 to reflect on the significance of Veterans Day and identify ways that they can honor the service and sacrifices of veterans by serving in their communities. In this guide, you will find:

- Video discussion guide
- Thank a Veteran activity
- Creative activities with teacher guides
- Veterans Day word searches with answer keys
- Supplemental reading list with Veterans Day-themed books for various age groups
- Guide to planning a visit to your local veterans home

## VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

Thank you for listening to a special message about Veterans Day from United States Marine Corps Veteran Maj. Josh Jabin from Travis Manion Foundation (TMF). Below are suggested questions to help guide a discussion with your students about the video.

1. What is a veteran?
2. Why do we celebrate Veterans Day?
3. Does anyone have a family member or neighbor who is a veteran?
4. What is the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?
5. Why do you think it is important for us to honor and thank our veterans?
6. What are some of the qualities or character traits you think a veteran may have? Refer to the graphic on the next page for a list of 24 character strengths.
7. How do you think we can express gratitude to veterans in our community?

*If you are interested in learning more about free Character Does Matter programming and would like to inquire about having a TMF Veteran Mentor visit your school, please visit [travismanion.org/veteransdayCDM2025](https://travismanion.org/veteransdayCDM2025).*

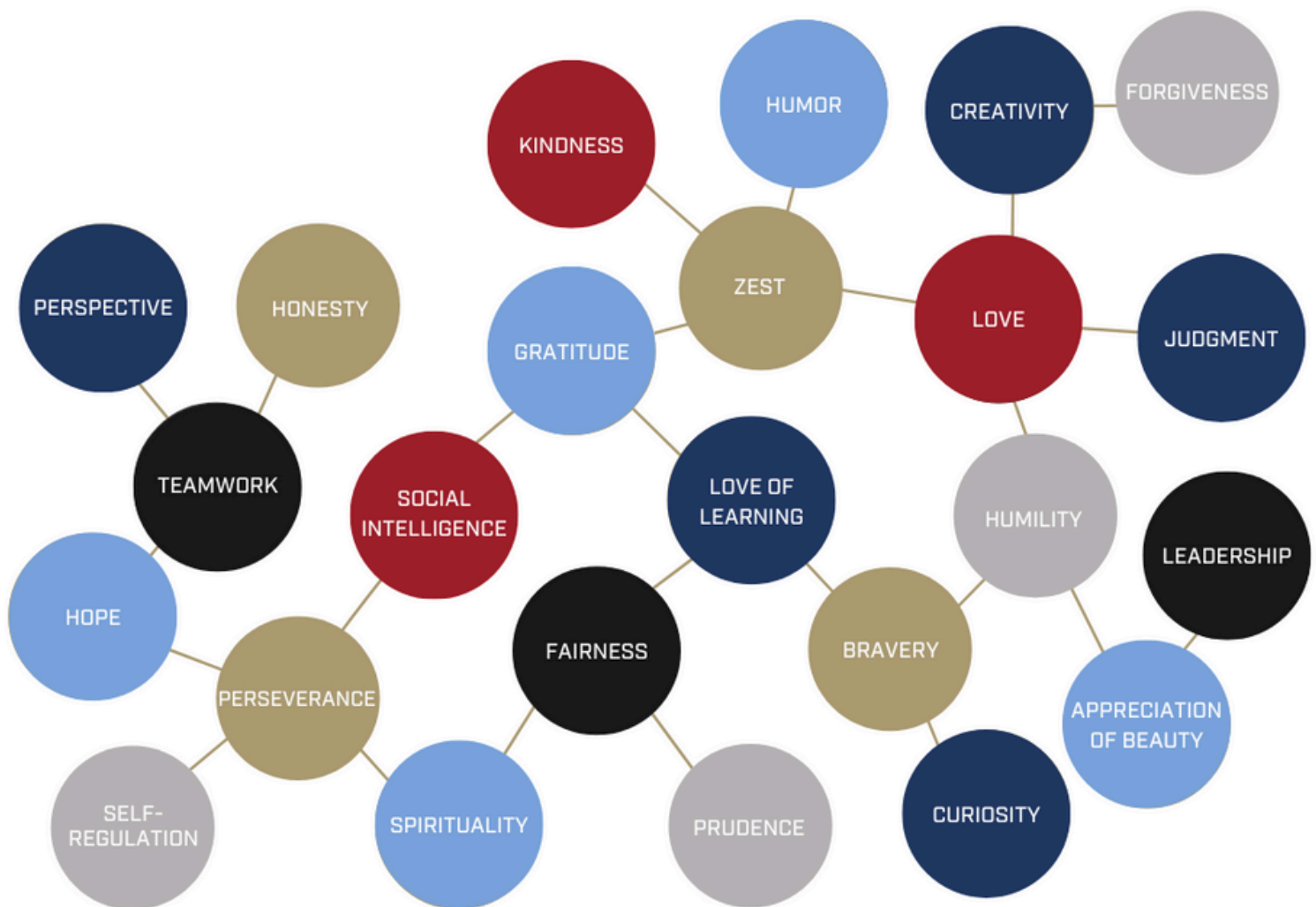
Travis Manion Foundation [TMF] unites communities to strengthen our nation's character by empowering veterans and families of fallen to lead in their communities.

# THANK A VETERAN

Using a blank sheet of paper or one of the templates on the following pages, encourage students to write a thank you letter to a veteran. Share these thought starters to help students get started. Veterans also love artwork. Younger students are welcome to draw pictures.

- Thank you for serving our country.
- I think you are brave because...
- I am grateful for veterans because...
- I think you are a hero because....
- Thank you for protecting our country's freedoms while serving.
- I think a veteran is \_\_\_\_\_ because...
- I think it is important to honor our veterans because....
- This Veterans Day, I want to share my gratitude because...
- Draw a patriotic picture

Drop the completed letters and pictures at a local veterans home. We also invite you to share pictures to social media to inspire others to thank veterans this Veterans Day. Don't forget to tag @travismanionfoundation in your post!

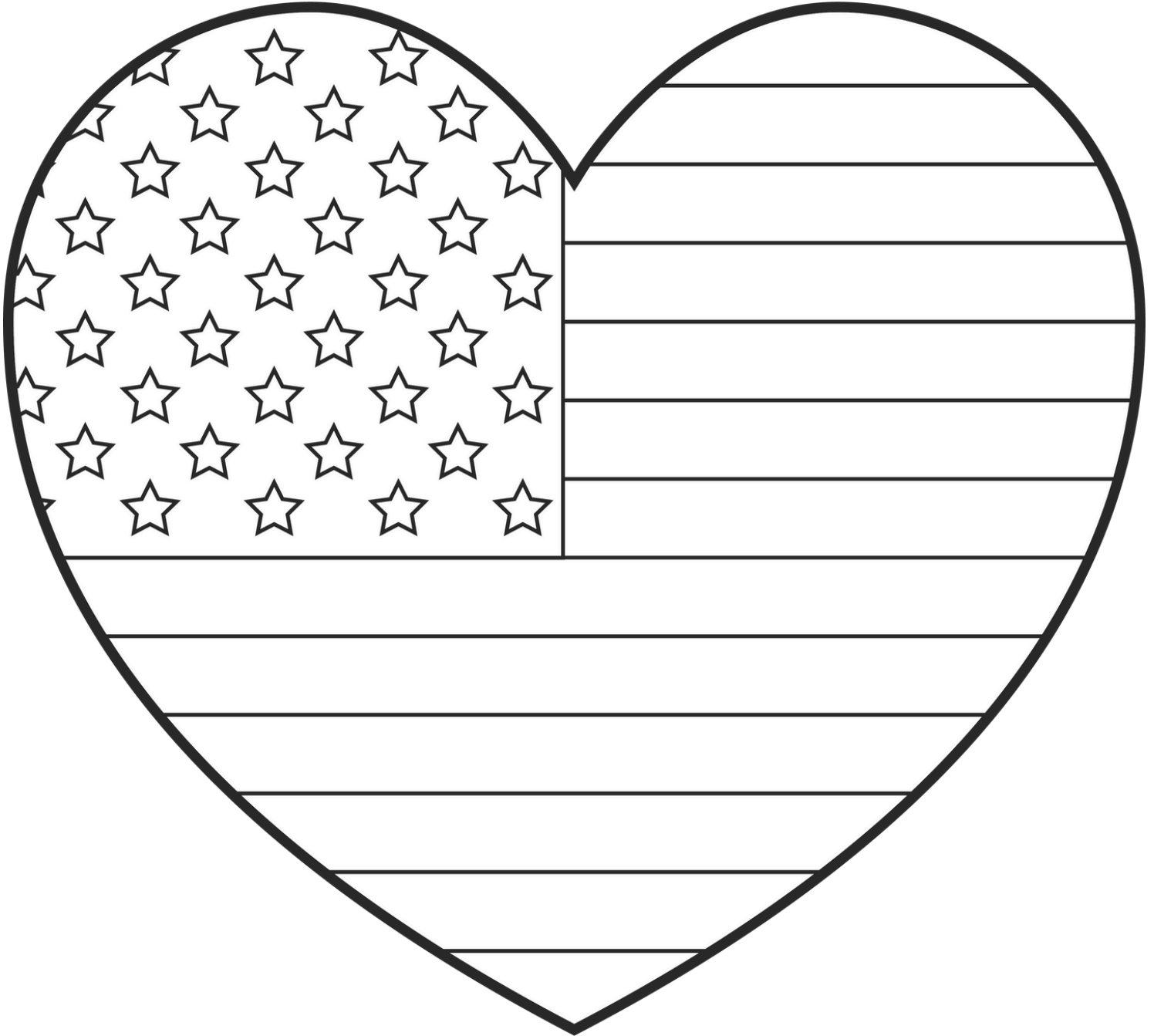


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# THANK YOU, VETERAN!



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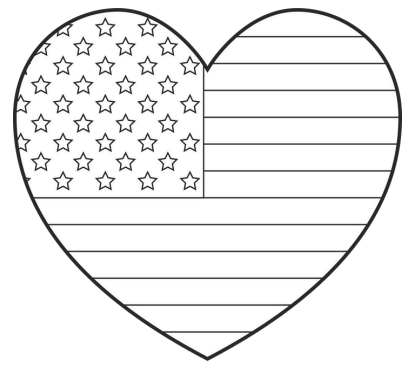
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# VETERANS DAY ACROSTIC POEM



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# A VETERAN IS ...



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Name:

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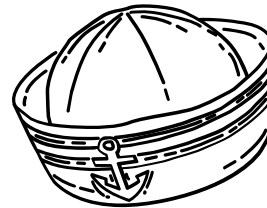
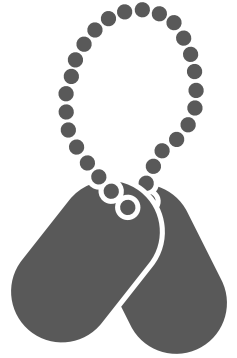
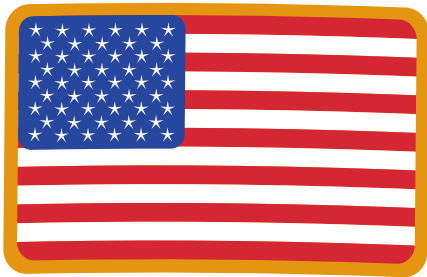
SAMPLE

# A VETERAN IS ...



## Coloring Area for Students

Use this area to draw American flags or military flags, hearts, military service members, patches, vehicles, or any other pictures related to veterans.



I think a veteran is brave because it takes courage to defend our country.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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# VETERANS DAY WORD SEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I	Q	K	C	O	A	S	T	G	U	A	R	D	C	Y
I	K	D	M	I	L	H	V	S	Y	T	D	E	T	W
V	S	P	E	K	N	T	M	E	O	L	C	H	R	B
F	R	E	E	D	O	M	J	R	T	R	Q	H	S	J
D	C	K	Q	A	E	H	Q	K	O	E	F	L	A	G
X	J	K	T	E	A	M	I	F	I	F	R	F	Q	S
L	P	W	G	Y	R	U	E	J	I	C	I	A	A	M
A	A	B	N	M	N	C	W	O	E	X	E	F	N	M
M	R	R	P	A	A	H	T	E	X	C	T	S	T	X
E	M	A	C	P	V	C	W	U	R	R	E	C	W	T
R	Y	V	S	A	Q	Y	C	O	K	N	E	D	B	H
I	R	E	H	L	R	U	F	A	I	P	E	R	F	Q
C	P	B	Q	T	Z	R	D	R	S	G	I	I	R	M
A	S	J	A	C	I	N	A	E	A	V	S	G	M	I
S	T	O	V	A	N	M	R	F	Z	N	Z	W	G	G

COAST GUARD  
AIR FORCE  
FREEDOM  
VETERAN

MARINES  
BRAVE  
TEAM  
ARMY  
SPACE FORCE

FLAG  
NAVY  
AMERICA  
RESPECT



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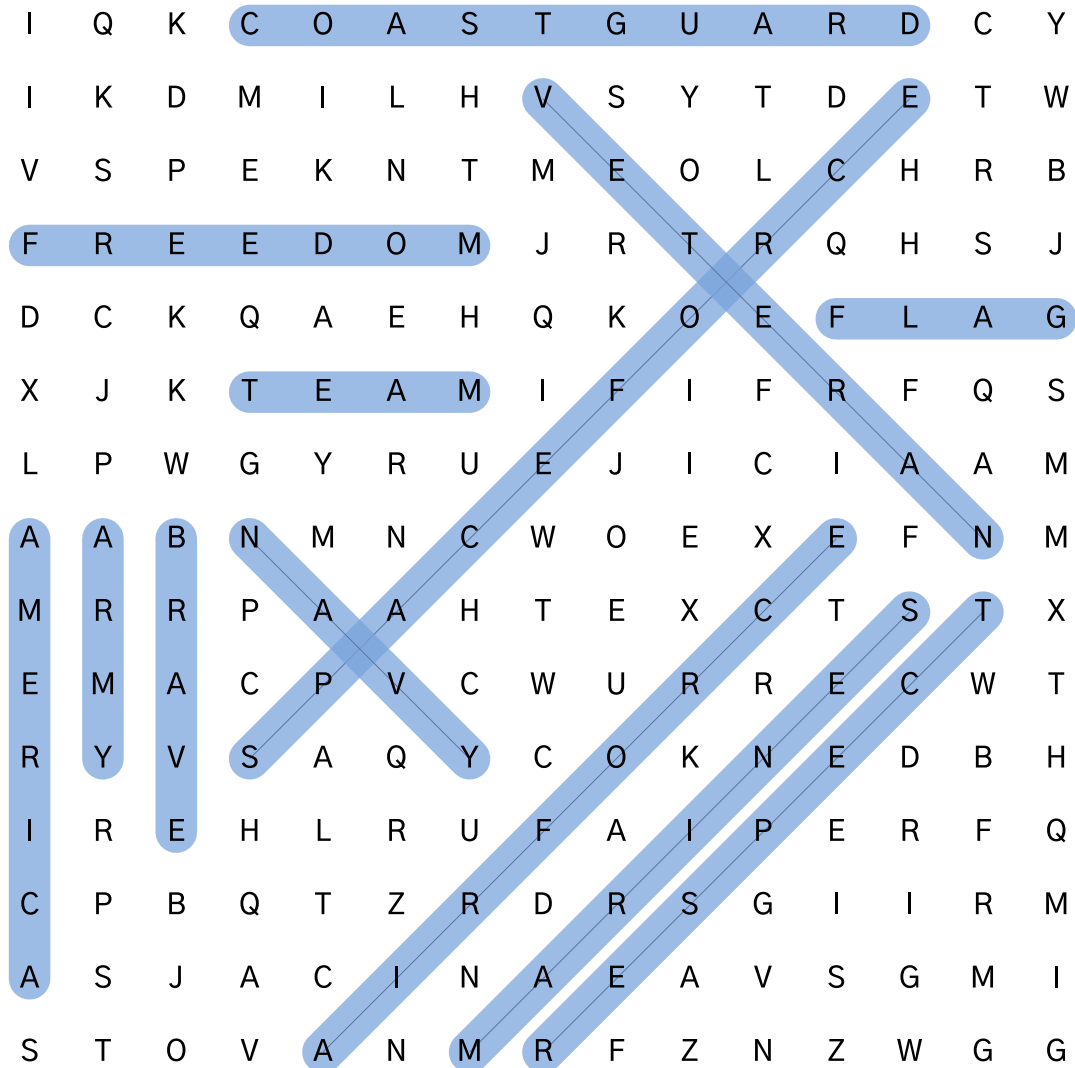
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# VETERANS DAY WORD SEARCH

## ANSWER KEY



COAST GUARD  
AIR FORCE  
FREEDOM  
VETERAN

MARINES  
BRAVE  
TEAM  
ARMY  
SPACE FORCE

FLAG  
NAVY  
AMERICA  
RESPECT



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# VETERANS DAY WORD SEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

T	N	H	O	N	O	R	Y	X	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	W
Q	E	Q	I	F	H	C	K	K	B	M	Y	I	F	D	X	O
Y	Y	A	J	V	L	E	Z	P	O	T	R	P	C	D	Z	O
R	T	M	M	A	W	E	L	O	W	D	E	J	C	C	H	F
E	R	J	O	W	I	B	A	W	S	N	V	A	O	N	N	R
B	E	I	V	G	O	R	L	D	I	K	A	S	A	G	T	E
M	B	M	U	T	D	R	F	S	E	E	R	O	S	H	C	E
E	I	R	T	Z	F	O	K	O	S	R	B	L	T	J	E	D
V	L	S	P	A	C	E	F	O	R	C	E	D	G	K	P	O
O	H	E	A	P	Y	S	X	Y	I	C	P	I	U	M	S	M
N	E	Q	V	I	G	J	M	E	O	M	E	E	A	N	E	I
Q	D	A	A	D	N	R	K	Y	W	A	D	R	R	A	R	S
C	H	E	R	O	A	F	Z	N	N	R	A	T	D	V	N	D
Y	G	Z	V	E	T	E	R	A	N	I	R	O	X	Y	V	J
F	A	L	D	H	K	M	N	P	C	N	A	X	M	U	Y	P
J	L	O	E	A	P	X	M	Y	H	E	P	W	M	K	R	R
A	F	V	C	J	C	K	S	W	B	S	J	A	F	S	C	X

RESPECT  
COAST GUARD  
AIR FORCE  
NOVEMBER  
SOLDIER  
AMERICA

VETERAN  
MARINES  
LIBERTY  
FREEDOM  
PARADE  
LEADER  
HONOR

BRAVERY  
ARMY  
NAVY  
HERO  
FLAG  
TEAMWORK  
SPACE FORCE



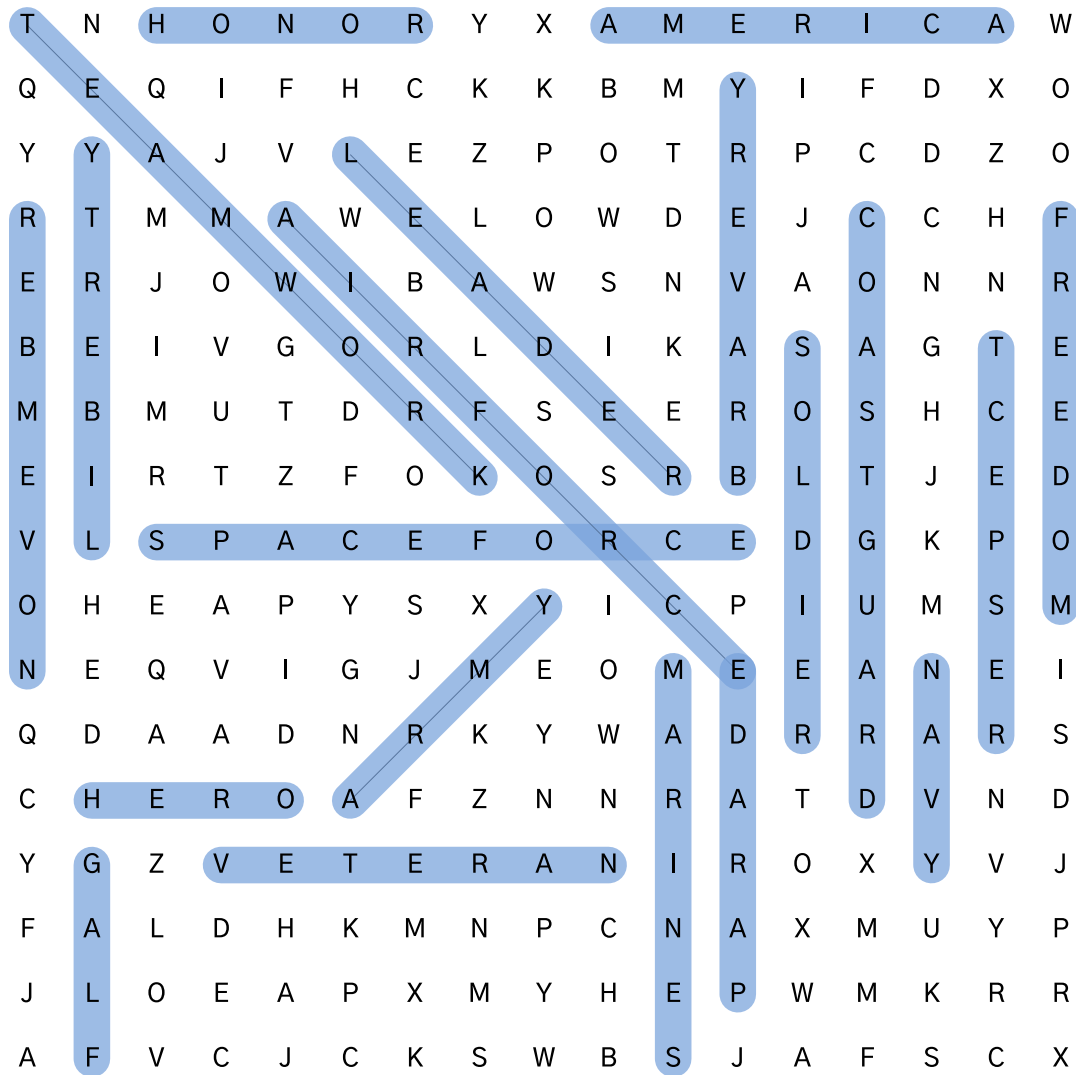
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# VETERANS DAY WORD SEARCH

## ANSWER KEY



RESPECT  
COAST GUARD  
AIR FORCE  
NOVEMBER  
SOLDIER  
AMERICA

VETERAN  
MARINES  
LIBERTY  
FREEDOM  
PARADE  
LEADER  
HONOR

BRAVERY  
ARMY  
NAVY  
HERO  
FLAG  
TEAMWORK  
SPACE FORCE



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# VETERANS DAY WORD SEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

J K O O C Q J A J G E D A R A P W A S S  
J S S Y G E I B I L Q E G C F U R I P P  
Y G L X M R I X M A T J R O S N A D U W  
Z W B X F R N A V Y J A C A P K R K F V  
B R P O F Z A X H Q C P Z S G V T N R E  
L F R E C R O F E C A P S T U E T O Q T  
J C M P H X Q H S L E I H G C S K I T E  
E M O D E E R F S E C L G U K E O T X R  
R S A M J P B M E A N D W A V N J A G A  
S L P J A R R S L D A X C R K I Z N G N  
A P M T L E P X F E R P G D W R W F A X  
Y M N I S S P S L R E P R R J A Q I R W  
O R E P L J K X E H V J A T K M S W D D  
G T E R K I G V S E E E T Y T R E B I L  
K C K V I O T W K R S Y I F M V L R P R  
T C Z Z A C H A P O R X T T Z F C Y O M  
Q S I K W R A L R Z E R U M C C G N H U  
Y G B A L H B Q E Y P A D X O I O E X V  
I O P J S O L D I E R M E J L H U F X C  
C H A R A C T E R D T E A M W O R K B G

GRATITUDE  
PERSEVERANCE  
COAST GUARD  
CHARACTER  
AIR FORCE  
SELFLESS  
TEAMWORK  
MILITARY  
SPACE FORCE

FREEDOM  
LIBERTY  
MARINES  
VETERAN  
AMERICA  
SOLDIER  
RESPECT  
LEADER

NATION  
PARADE  
HONOR  
BRAVERY  
HERO  
NAVY  
ARMY  
IF NOT ME THEN WHO



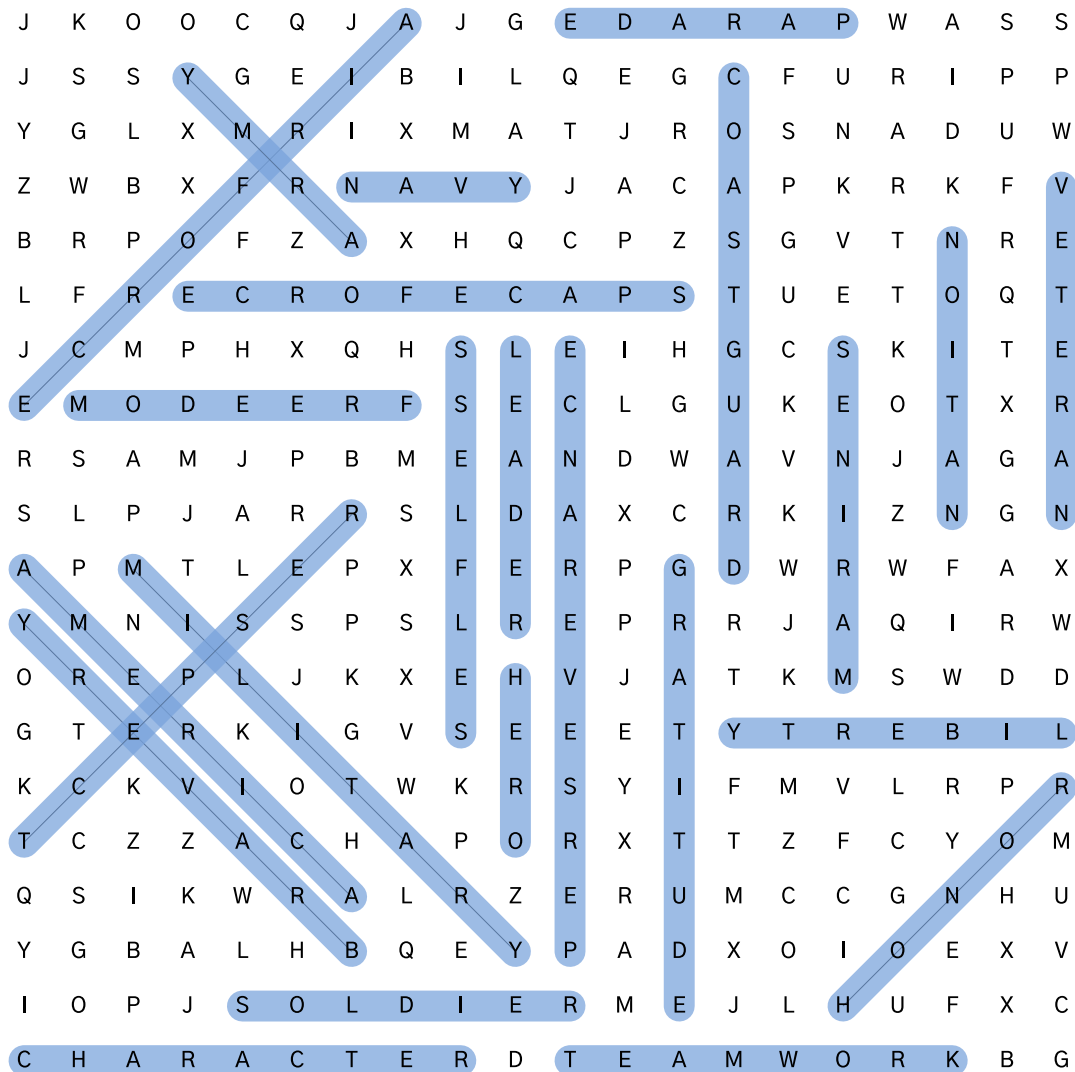
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# VETERANS DAY WORD SEARCH

## ANSWER KEY



GRATITUDE  
PERSEVERANCE  
COAST GUARD  
CHARACTER  
AIRFORCE  
SELFLESS  
TEAMWORK  
MILITARY  
SPACE FORCE

FREEDOM  
LIBERTY  
MARINES  
VETERAN  
AMERICA  
SOLDIER  
RESPECT  
LEADER

NATION  
PARADE  
HONOR  
BRAVERY  
HERO  
NAVY  
ARMY  
IF NOT ME THEN WHO



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# PLANNING A VETERANS HOME VISIT

Visiting your local veterans home is a great way for students of all ages to serve their community and connect with another generation. While these visits can help students learn about Veterans Day, veterans appreciate visits year-round. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Locate a veterans home near you by visiting <https://nasvh.org/directory/>
- Connect with the activities coordinator or staff to inquire about visitation and volunteer guidelines
- Ideas for visiting:
  - Play board/card games
  - Bring picture books/children's books for younger students to read out loud to veterans
  - Organize arts and crafts for students to do with veterans
  - Offer to participate in existing activities that the veterans home has scheduled
  - Ask what their needs are and how your students can be helpful
- Inspire older students to interview veterans using some of the questions below. Students can record responses, take notes, or simply enjoy the conversation. Our veterans have a lot to share!
  - Encourage students to share their interviews in school with classmates. Pose thoughtful questions to students, such as:
    - How can you apply what you learned from this veteran to your own life?
    - What was the most meaningful part of your conversation?

## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What branch did you serve in and how long did you serve?
- Why did you decide to be a part of the military?
- Where did you travel (deploy) to?
- What was the most important lesson learned during your time in the military?
- Do you have a favorite or funny memory?
- What was the hardest part about boot camp or your initial training?
- How did you stay in touch with your family and friends?
- Why is it important to have both moral and physical bravery?
- What character strengths do you think are important to lead with in the military?
- What advice would you give to this generation?
- Allow the conversation to flow. Veterans can ask students questions, and students can come up with their own questions that are appropriate to ask veterans.



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# VETERANS DAY SUPPLEMENTAL CHILDREN'S READING LIST

Inspire young readers to share an appreciation for our nation's veterans using this supplemental reading list. These stories will help students understand what it means to be a veteran and why we celebrate them each November.

For a deeper discussion, consider reading the book in advance, identifying key moments for reflection, and preparing thoughtful questions to encourage comprehension and conversation.

TITLE	AUTHOR	SUGGESTED GRADE LEVELS
<i>Mr. Quigley's Keyes</i>	Barbara Gruener	K-5
<i>Otto's Tales: Today is Veterans Day!</i>	PragerU	K-2
<i>Veteran's Day for Grandpa</i>	Dee Smith	Pre K -1
<i>Hero Dad</i>	Melinda Hardin	K-2
<i>Hero Mom</i>	Melinda Hardin	K-2
<i>My Red Balloon</i>	Eve Bunting	Pre K- 2
<i>Letters To A Soldier</i>	David Falvey	3-6
<i>Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhood</i>	Valerie Pfundstein	Pre K - 2
<i>Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle</i>	Major Brian Dennis	3-6

