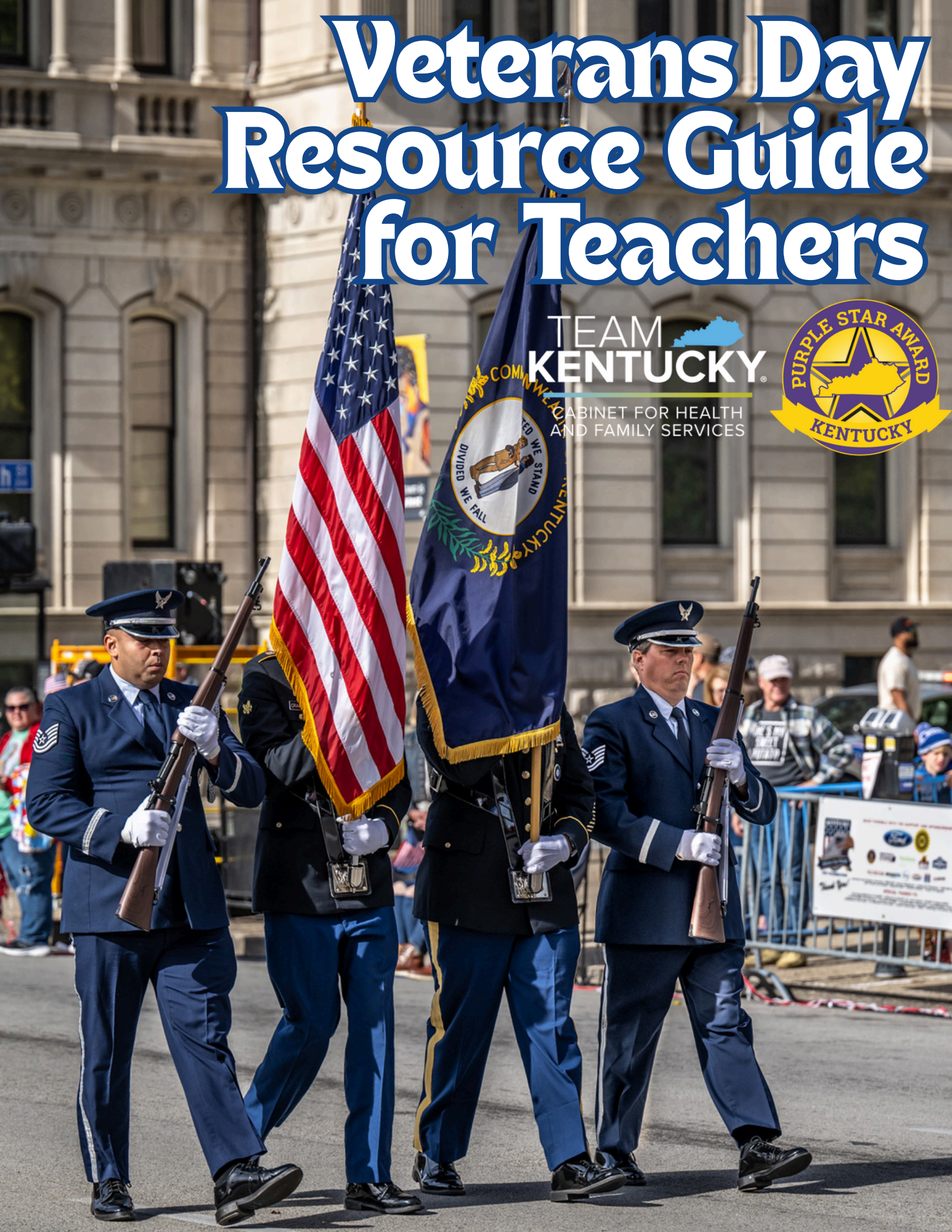
Veterans Day Resource Guide for Teachers



VETERANS DAY RESOURCE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

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Kentucky Veterans Day Celebration statute KRS 158.075

On Veterans Day, or one of the five school days preceding Veterans Day, **one class** or **instructional period** shall be devoted to the observance of Veterans Day.

- Students shall assemble in one (1) or more groups, as decided by the school principal, to attend the Veterans Day program.

- The program shall be approved by the principal and, at a minimum, shall consist of a teacher and a veteran speaking on the meaning of Veterans Day.

Kentucky Purple Star Award

The Kentucky Purple Star Award Program is an evidence-informed resource for schools committed to supporting military-connected youth and their families.

This state-sponsored recognition honors individual schools that demonstrate exceptional dedication to **creating supportive environments for students from military families.**

The program's mission is to **foster connection and strengthen resilience among Kentucky's military-connected youth.**

Earning the Purple Star designation signals to military families and the broader community that a school is committed to helping these students thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally—so they are college-, workforce-, and life-ready. The Purple Star Award is backed by the U.S. Department of Defense, the Military Child Education Coalition, and the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. Its importance is further recognized through Kentucky state legislation (KRS 160.153), which outlines the criteria schools must meet to earn the designation.

The program is cost free and was developed to be flexible to suit school staff's busy schedules.

To learn more about the Kentucky Purple Star Award Program, visit kypurplestar.org or contact Georgi-Anne Johnson at georgianne.johnson@ky.gov.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their contributions to this Veterans Day Tool Kit: Chenoweth Elementary, Pinellas County School System, Global Game Changers, KYNG Child and Youth Program, and The Kentucky Purple Star Award Program. The cover photo is of the U.S. Air National Guard marching in Louisville's Annual Veterans Day Parade in 2024, taken by Dale Greer (tinyurl.com/DaleGreerCoverPhoto).

Introduction

Kentucky is home to 267,611 veterans, 7.2 percent of the Commonwealth's over-18 population. The majority of these veterans live in the Louisville Metro and Lexington areas. The counties surrounding forts Campbell and Knox (Christian, Trigg, Todd, Hardin, Nelson, Bullitt and Meade) also have high concentrations of veterans. Kentucky ranks 21st in the number of retired military residents. Approximately 25 percent of Kentucky's veterans have a service-connected disability.

This toolkit was created to serve as a resource to support schools' efforts to honor and celebrate the service of the veterans of the Commonwealth. Sample activities, ideas, and resources have been provided from national organizations as well as schools right here in Kentucky. If you have any questions or suggestions about the toolkit please contact Georgi-Anne Johnson, the Kentucky Military Family Resiliency Specialist at georgianne.johnson@ky.gov

Sources: tinyurl.com/KY-Veterans
tinyurl.com/Veteran-Pop
tinyurl.com/KCMA-Defense

The Origins of Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.
In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War." Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

Sources: tinyurl.com/TheGreatWarSource
tinyurl.com/11thSource

Kentucky Military Facts

- The Kentucky National Guard is one of the oldest in the United States, with roots in 1775 when Kentucky was a part of western Virginia.
- During the War of 1812, Kentucky provided more soldiers than other state and suffered heavy casualties.
- Since 1862, 60 Kentuckians have received the Medal of Honor, the highest military honor the United States government awards.



Sources: tinyurl.com/KYNGfact
tinyurl.com/KYNGfact2
tinyurl.com/MOHsource

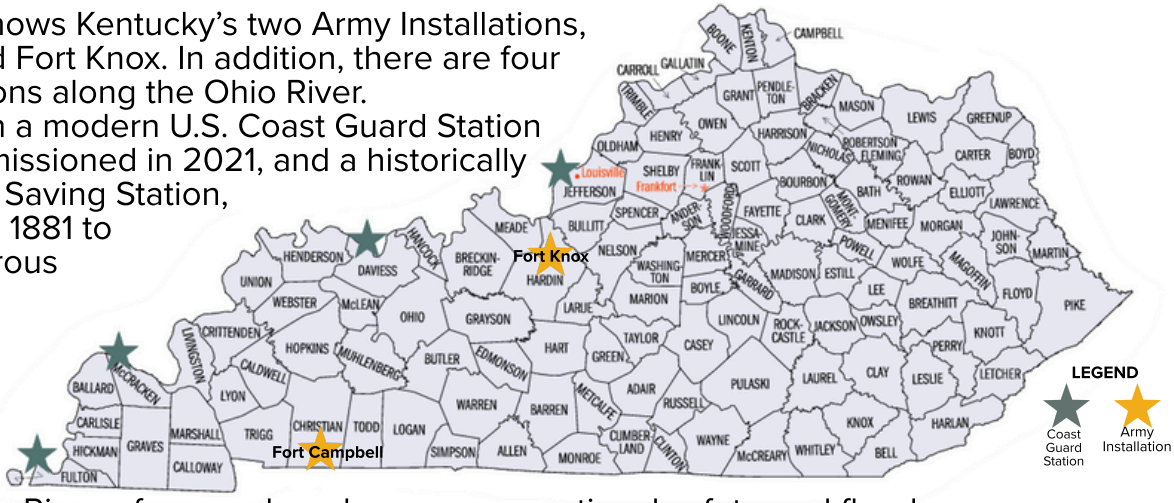


- Franklin Runyon Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky was a United States Marine who was killed in action during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. He was one of the six marines who raised the second of two U.S. flags on top of Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945.

Sources: tinyurl.com/FRSsource
tinyurl.com/FRSsource2

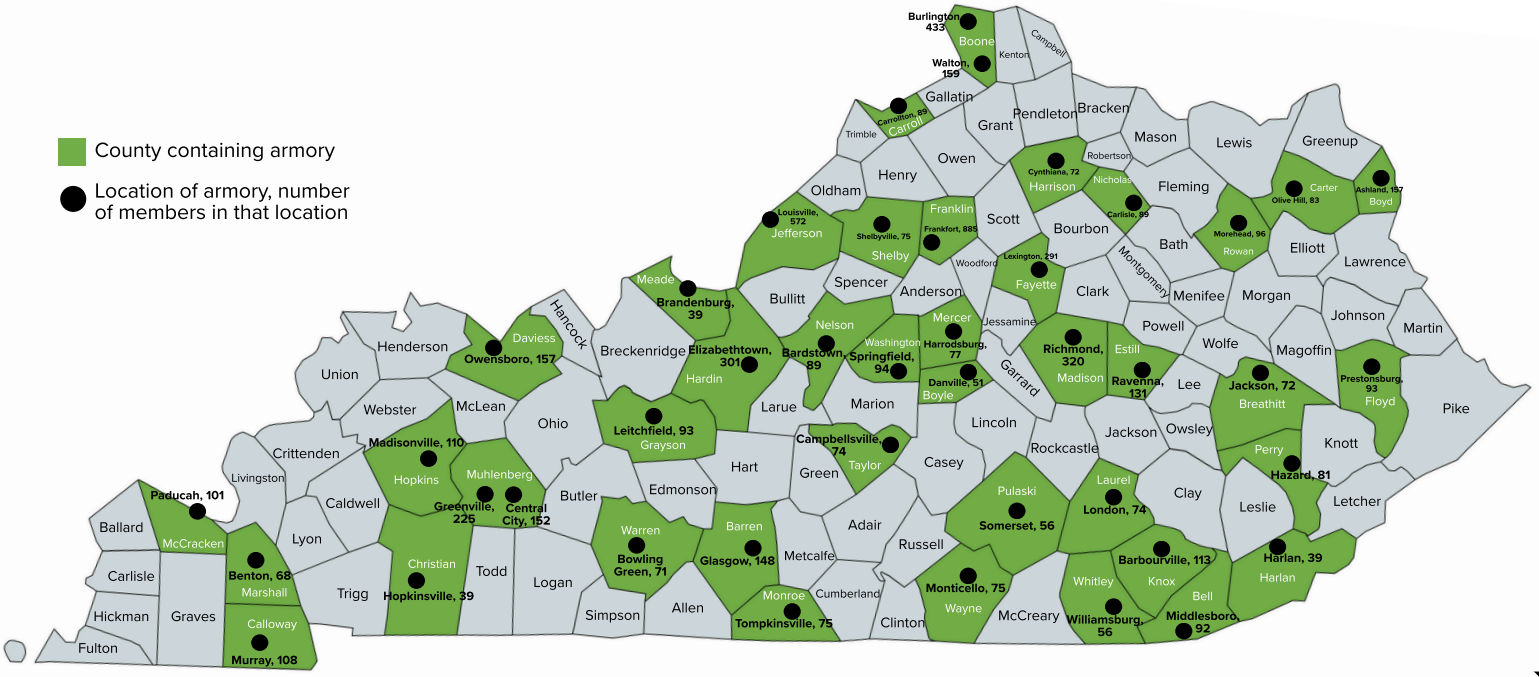
Kentucky Military Bases and National Guard Posts

The map below shows Kentucky's two Army Installations, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. In addition, there are four Coast Guard stations along the Ohio River. Kentucky has both a modern U.S. Coast Guard Station in Louisville, commissioned in 2021, and a historically unique inland Life Saving Station, first established in 1881 to serve the treacherous Falls of the Ohio River. The new Louisville station focuses on inland waterways, including the Ohio and Kentucky Rivers, for search and rescue, recreational safety, and flood response, while the original station was the world's only permanently located, floating, inland lifeboat station and served as a vital safety point at the Falls of the Ohio.



The Kentucky National Guard

The Kentucky National Guard serves a dual mission, ready to support the U.S. in national conflicts and respond to the Governor of Kentucky for state-level emergencies like floods or tornadoes, as well as providing security for large events like the Kentucky Derby. With a history dating back to 1775, the voluntary citizen-soldier force is a unique and indispensable part of defending the Commonwealth and the United States. The map below shows the Kentucky National Guard Armories and the number of National Guard members at each armory. The Kentucky National Guard is comprised of approximately 7,500 soldiers and airmen, as reported by The Kentucky Guard itself (tinyurl.com/AboutKYGuard). This figure includes both the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, which are components of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, respectively.



Tomb of the Unknown Solider

In 1921, an American soldier – his name “known but to God”– was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and Washington, D.C. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery became known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The neoclassical, white marble sarcophagus depicts three carved Greek figures representing Peace, Victory, and Valor. Inscribed on the back of the Tomb are the words: “Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.” The Tomb sarcophagus stands above the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I. To the west are the crypts for an Unknown Soldier from World War II and the Korean War. A white marble slab flush with the plaza marks each crypt.

In the following years, thousands of people flocked to Arlington National Cemetery to pay their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which soon came to symbolize the sacrifices of all American service members.

In 1926, Congress established a military guard to protect the Tomb during daylight hours. Since midnight on July 2, 1937, the Army has maintained a 24-hour guard over the Tomb. Sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, “The Old Guard,” assumed these duties on April 6, 1948, maintaining a constant vigil regardless of weather conditions.

For more information, please visit the Arlington National Cemetery website at tinyurl.com/Vday-Unknown-Soldier



Sources: tinyurl.comTOUSsource
tinyurl.com/TOUSsource2

Sample School Announcement

School announcements are a great way to share information about Veterans Day and the important role that veterans play in our society. Below are some sample school announcements.

It is recommended that during the morning announcement you recognize by name and military branch, the members of your school's staff who are veterans.

Elementary:
Today is a special day in our country. Today is Veterans Day. It is a day for all Americans to take time and be thankful for the people who serve in our military forces. Our military forces are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force. People who have served in our military are called veterans. You might have someone in your family or a close friend of your family who is a veteran, but veterans aren't just family and friends, they are everywhere! They don't always wear their uniforms, but they made sacrifices in their life to serve and protect our country-and for that we are grateful. Maybe one day you might join the military and then you will be a veteran, too!

Secondary:
Today we recognize and celebrate Veterans Day which began as 'Armistice Day' on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. It is a day for all Americans to take time and be thankful for the people who serve in our military forces. The military men and women who serve and protect the United States in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force come from all walks of life. They are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, and are an important part of our community. Veterans Day is a special opportunity for each of us to give thanks and honor the bravery and sacrifice of all United States Veterans.

Sample School Activities

The following are sample activities that will make Veterans Day memorable for both students and guests.

All Grade Levels

- Plan a school assembly to be held on Veterans Day and invite local veterans to honor. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs annually publishes a teacher guide that can provide considerations to make when planning a school assembly. tinyurl.com/VA-TeacherGuide

- Photograph wall: (*see page 13* for example memo) Ask students and teachers to bring in a photograph of any family members who are veterans and display them on a bulletin board or wall in the main hallway, include the veterans' service record, name, and the student or teacher's name. Students and teachers who have difficulty obtaining a photograph could share a brief story and service record. A virtual bulletin board can also be created using a PowerPoint presentation with the names and pictures of veterans that students/staff share. On Veterans Day, the PowerPoint can be run on a loop through the school's closed video system and/or in the cafeteria during lunches.

All Grade Levels *(continued)*

- Mail Call (*see page 15* for details, printable cards, and coloring sheets)
  - Work with your students to create cards or write letters to active service members or veterans. Two organizations in Kentucky send out mail throughout the year. Find the addresses and more details on page 14.

- United Through Reading, Veterans Day Initiative: Enlist Your Classroom
  - Virtual Storytime with a Service Member
    - United Through Reading's Storytime with a Service Member invites teachers, homeschoolers, and community educators to share stories read aloud by service members from every branch of the U.S. military. Since starting, more than 1,000 classrooms—from preschool through high school—have joined to celebrate literacy, service, and connection.
      - Sign up at tinyurl.com/UnitedThroughReading

Elementary Level

- American Flag Pinwheels, K-12, *See page 28* for details or visit link: tinyurl.com/flag-pinwheels

- Patriotic Wreaths, K-12, *See page 30* for details or visit link: tinyurl.com/patriotic-wreaths

- Sacrifice Your Scales, K, *See page 33* for details or visit link: tinyurl.com/Scales-Activity
  - (The lesson includes the use of an additional book but can be modified to work without the text)

- Flag Etiquette, 3rd, *See page 35* for details or visit link: tinyurl.com/flag-manners
  - (The lesson includes the use of an additional book but can be modified to work without the text)

- Exploring the Six Core Values, 3rd-6th, *See page 36* for details or visit link: tinyurl.com/Six-Principles

- Collaborative School Flag Project
  - Show students a video about the U.S. flag and veterans (like this one from Miacademy: tinyurl.com/flag-veterans)







1. Have students draw with crayons, colored pencils, or markers (choose one media) on 8"x8" white drawing paper either a family member who served in the military or a self-portrait. (If there is time, have students bring in a photo of someone who served as a visual reference.)

2. Have some students color their backgrounds in shades of blue & others make flag backgrounds.

3. Create a giant flag out of all the completed self-portraits (blue background portraits in the upper left-hand corner) and large red strips of bulletin board paper horizontally placed.

4. Display proudly on a large wall, the cafeteria, or a prominent place where school's Veterans Day ceremony occurs.

Elementary Level *(continued)*

- Performing Arts: Sing, Play, Move
  - Sing
    - K-2nd: You're a Grand Old Flag, My Country 'tis of Thee
    - 3rd-5th: America the Beautiful, Star Spangled Banner
  - Play
    - K-2nd: Yankee Doodle – play sticks on verse and drums on refrain
    - 3rd-5th: Play Orff arrangement of a selected patriotic song
  - Move
    - March to Stars and Stripes Forever– Moving to steady beat
    - Teach sign language to America the Beautiful

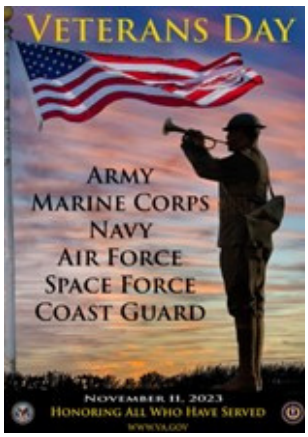
Secondary Level

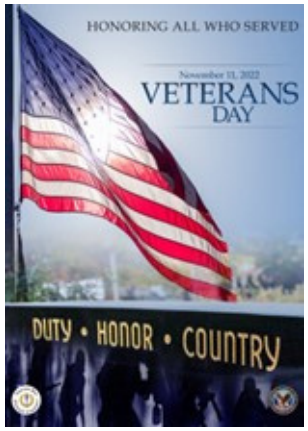
- Symbolism and the Medal of Honor, 6th-12th, *See page 38* for details or visit link: tinyurl.com/secondary-VDay

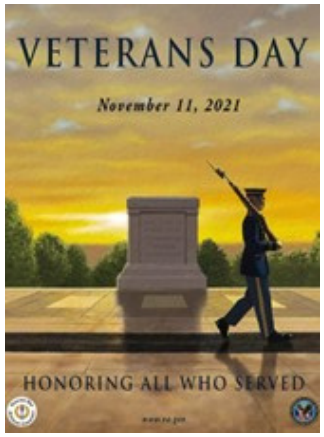
- Portrait of a Service Member, 6th-12th, *See page 39* or visit link: tinyurl.com/service-member-portrait
  - (includes connecting to a local military branch, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), or American Legion to find a veteran or an active duty service member who is willing to visit the classroom)

- Veterans Day Poster Contest
  - Show students several posters that have won the annual Veterans Day Poster Contest posted in the online gallery on the Veterans Affairs site: tinyurl.com/Vday-Posters









1. Discuss why these posters may have won. What commonalities are found in the winning designs? What elements of art/principles of design are found in a successful poster?

2. Have students create sketches of their ideas for a poster and create an 8.5" x 11" design for a poster using digital media or traditional media tools (see examples below).

3. Hold a schoolwide contest and ask someone with an art background/expertise to decide the top three student designs.

4. Blow up the 1st place design to a large poster size and frame.

5. Have an unveiling of the 1st place framed poster at an awards recognition during the school's Veterans Day ceremony. Recognize the other two students with top designs.

6. Display the award-winning framed poster in the media center, cafeteria, display case, or another prominent place for a year.

Secondary Level *(continued)*

- Performing Arts: Sing & Play
  - Sing
    - Free Like Me: tinyurl.com/FreeLikeMe-Video
    - We Remember: tinyurl.com/we-remember-song
    - In Flanders Fields *(see page 40)*: tinyurl.com/flanders-fields
  - Play
    - Marches of the Armed Forces: tinyurl.com/march-armed-forces

More activities and resources, like coloring sheets, fill-in the blank pages, and information about folding the American flag, are available beginning on page 41.

Looking Back to Previous Years

Here are a few ways that some of our Kentucky schools have celebrated Veterans Day in the past. Check out these activities, assemblies, and presentations to inspire you to think outside of the box!

Celebrating Veterans at
New Bedford Elementary in Bedford, KY



Honoring Veterans at Northview
Elementary in Mt. Sterling, KY



Missing Man Table at John Hardin High
School in Elizabethtown, KY



To share your Veterans Day activities, email georgianne.johnson@ky.gov

Resources to Support the Observance of Veterans Day

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Day Resources: (scroll down to find posters and more) tinyurl.com/VA-Vday
- Library of Congress Veterans History Project: tinyurl.com/LOC-vday
- Arlington National Cemetery: tinyurl.com/ANC-education
- Military Women's Memorial Video Series: tinyurl.com/MWM-Video
- Infographic- How to Display the American Flag: tinyurl.com/flag-display
- Facts About the American Flag: tinyurl.com/flag-facts
- History and Timeline of Veterans Day: tinyurl.com/history-timeline
- Veterans Day Teaching Resources for Elementary and Middle School: tinyurl.com/elem-mid
- Veterans Day Facts for Kids (8 min video): tinyurl.com/Vday-for-kids
- PsychArmor's Free Online Course Library-Access free courses to learn about military culture, veterans, and more: psycharmor.org

Resources For Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families

Share with the service members, veterans, or military families in your life and school!

- kynect for Veterans
  - Kentucky-specific links to food, housing, mental health, addiction, employment, education, financial, and health resources for veterans.
    - tinyurl.com/kynect-veteran *(enter your zip code or city to see what's available nearby)*

- FindHelpNow
  - Links to mental health, addiction, recovery housing, and more treatment providers and facilities in Kentucky.
    - findhelpnow.org/ky

- Veterans Crisis Line
  - 24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.
    - Call or text 988 then press 3 for the Veterans Crisis Line
    - chat at tinyurl.com/VCL-Chat

- KY Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Information on benefits, counseling, long-term care, veterans cemeteries, health care, education, employment, and special programs for women veterans, homeless veterans, and others.
    - veterans.ky.gov
    - 502-564-9203

- Veterans Benefits Administration
  - Helps veterans and their families buy homes, earn degrees, start careers, stay healthy, and more.
    - benefits.va.gov/benefits
    - 1-800-827-1000

- American Legion
  - The American Legion serves service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) by providing support, advocacy, and community programs.
    - Find a post near you: tinyurl.com/find-a-post

- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
  - The Veterans of Foreign Wars advocates for veterans' rights and benefits, assists with VA claims, provides financial and social supports to veterans and their families, promotes patriotism and community service through various programs, and supports military members on active duty and those transitioning to civilian life.
    - Find a post near you: tinyurl.com/find-a-post2

- U.S. Veterans Administration
  - medical provider/community resource locator
    - va.gov/Find-Locations
    - 1-800-698-2411

- Vet Center
  - Community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional counseling to eligible veterans, service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families.
    - vetcenter.va.gov
    - 1-877-927-8387

- Military OneSource
  - A wide variety of support for military personnel and their families, including spouse education and career opportunities, military family readiness programs, resources and services for families with special needs, counseling, community involvement and group activities, family advocacy programs, child and youth programs, and more.
    - militaryonesource.mil
    - 1-800-342-9647

- National Resource Directory
  - Connects SMVF and caregivers to vetted resources that support their recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration or transition.
    - nrd.gov

- National Veterans Legal Services Program
  - Independent, nonprofit veterans services organization working to ensure the government delivers benefits to veterans.
    - nvlsp.org

- VA Homeless Program
  - Call for resources if you are a veterans or know a veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.
    - va.gov/homeless

- Employment Resources for Veterans
  - tinyurl.com/Veteran-Employment

Photograph Wall, All Grade Levels

Dear Families,

Veterans Day is November 11th.

As a school, one way we will be honoring our veterans is by creating a bulletin board to recognize their service.

If there is a veteran in your student's life, please fill out the accompanying form and return to school by November 8th.

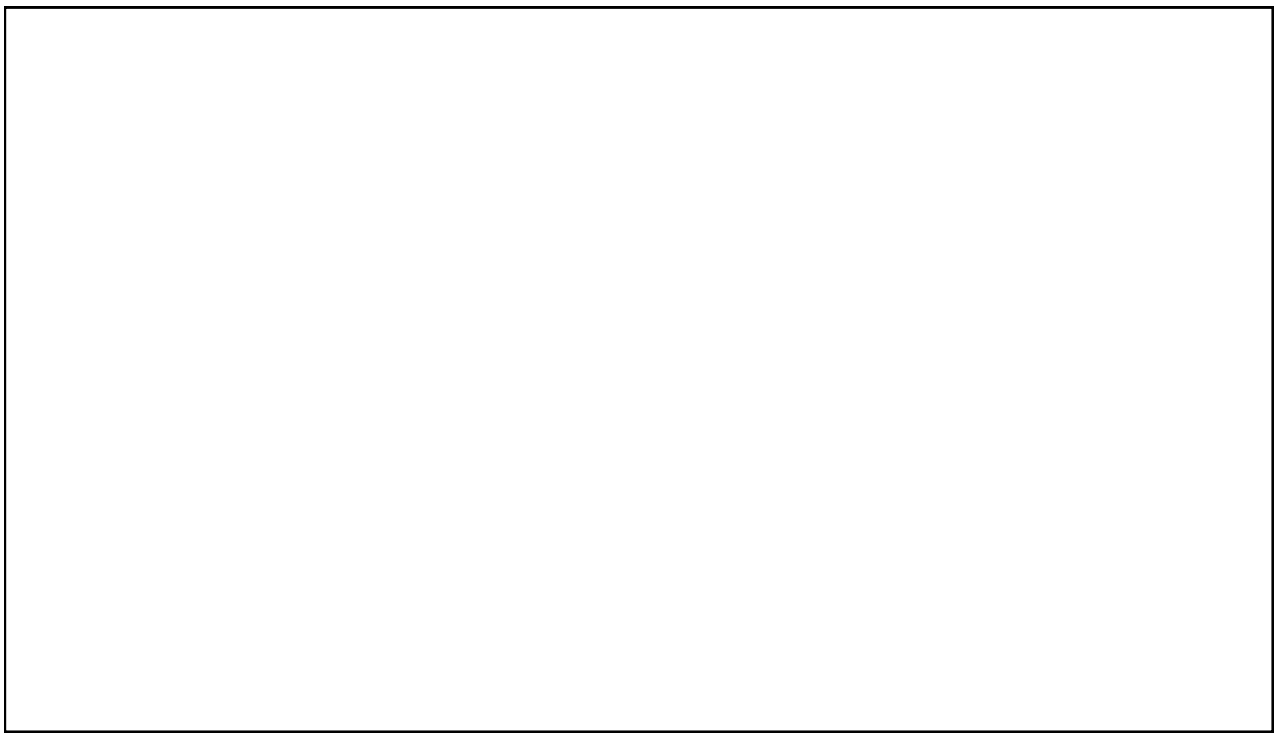
Your student can either attach a photo, or draw a picture of their veteran, but please do not send any original photos that have to be returned to you.

This veteran does not have to be a family member. Family friends, neighbors, and other veterans are welcome to be included!

If your family needs additional forms to recognize more veterans, please contact _____ at _____ and additional forms will be sent home with your student.

Thanks for helping to recognize our heroes!

Photograph Wall: Honoring Our Veterans



Veteran's Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Dates of Service (or number of years): _____

Student name/Relationship to student: _____

_____

Any additional information about this veteran: _____

_____

_____

Mail Call, All Grade Levels

Veterans benefit in many ways from knowing that they're thought of and appreciated. Two organizations in Kentucky, Military Missions and Honor Flight KY, help distribute mail to either active service members or veterans. See below for details about each organization, including where to send mail and tips for mail creation. You can also contact local VA hospitals or nursing homes to see if they accept mail for veterans.

The next pages include printable cards that you can print, fold in half, and customize. After that are coloring sheets/thank you notes that can be printed and colored to send to veterans or service members.

Honor Flight KY (tinyurl.com/honor-flight)
Our mission is to fly World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans to Washington DC for a one-day, all-expenses-paid visit to the National memorials that are dedicated to honoring their service. Our goal is to fly as many Veterans as we can from Central, Eastern, and Southern Kentucky. We currently have several hundred Veteran applicants on our waiting list. Mail is given to Veterans as an added thank you and acknowledgement of their service.

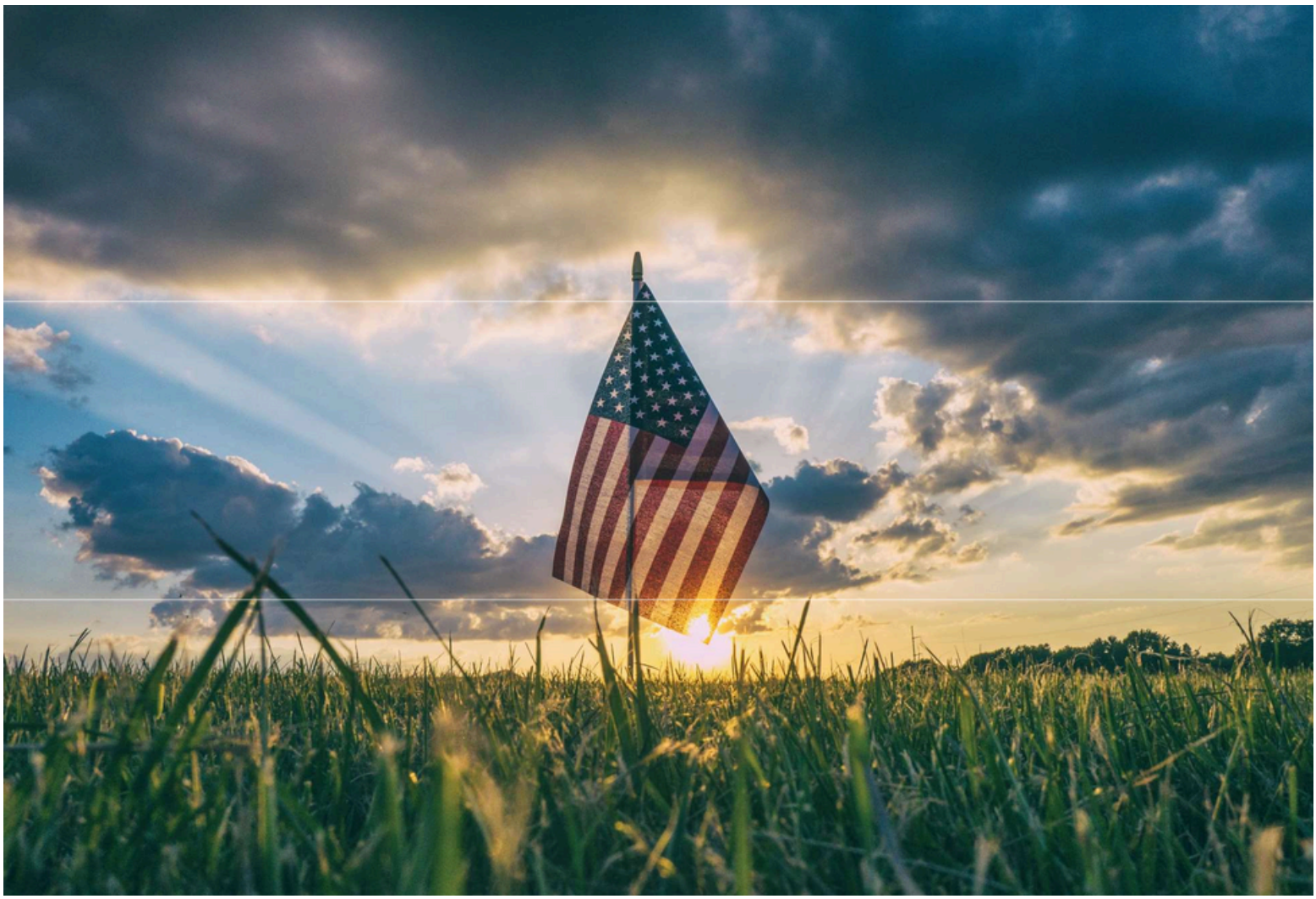
Honor Flight Kentucky
P.O. Box 25025
Lexington, KY 40524

Military Missions KY (tinyurl.com/military-missions)
Our main focus is sending care packages to our deployed troops. We send a touch of home to those who are deployed and serving in harm's way on our behalf. We include 10 to 15 personalized cards and letters in each care package. These messages are the most important part of the package! If we send out 8,000 care packages in a year, this means 80,000 cards are needed. Recruit your friends and family to make cards and write letters. Feel free to mail or drop off in person, if you're local:

Military Missions Inc.
570 Delzan Place, Suite 10
Lexington, KY 40503

Things to consider when making your cards or writing your letters:

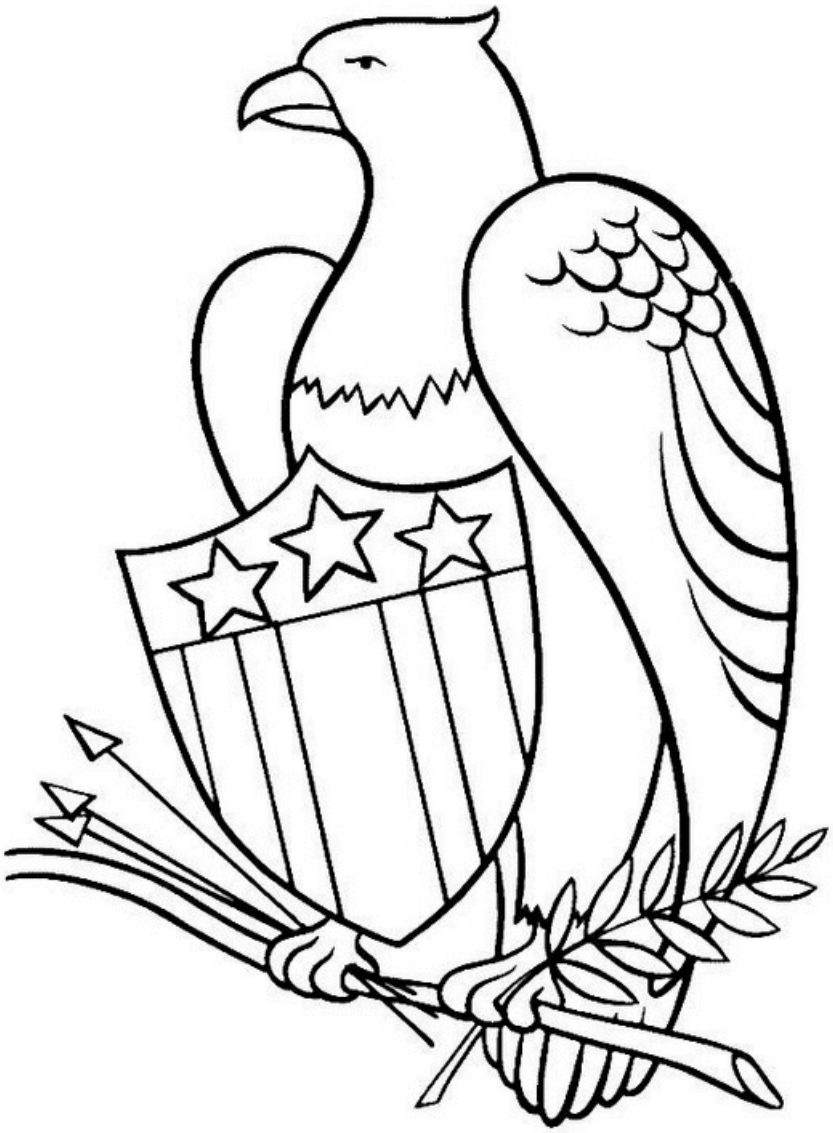
- Handwritten/hand drawn cards or letters are most appreciated.
- Do not date the letters, cards, drawings, etc. as they will be sent throughout the year.
- Try to send Christmas cards during only October and November. The safest option is to send non-holiday, patriotic, or gratefulness themed items.
- Envelopes are not necessary, but if they are sent, do not seal the envelope. All materials will be reviewed before sending.
- Sign only your first name. Feel free to include your city and state, or organization. Avoid listing a full personal address.
- Address the mail to a general recipient, like "Hero," "Trailblazer," "Veteran," or "Friend," to avoid mentioning a specific branch of service.
- Don't use staples, pins, or anything else that could possibly injure someone.
- Do not use glitter on the materials you send. Active service members can get in trouble if they get glitter on their clothes, uniforms, or other items.
- Avoid creating drawings or writing letters on dark colored paper so that the art and text can be easily read by the recipient.
- Be positive and upbeat and be thankful. Avoid talking about death, wounds, or anything negative or sad.
- Feel free to share a little bit of info about yourself, like your hobbies, pets, the weather, recent sports games, shows, music, books, or movies you like, etc.
- A simple message of thanks for their service or letting them know that you are thinking about them is nice. Thanking them for keeping America safe and free is always a good choice too.
- Avoid politics or political statements.
- Avoid lengthy religious discussions. Saying you are praying for them is fine.

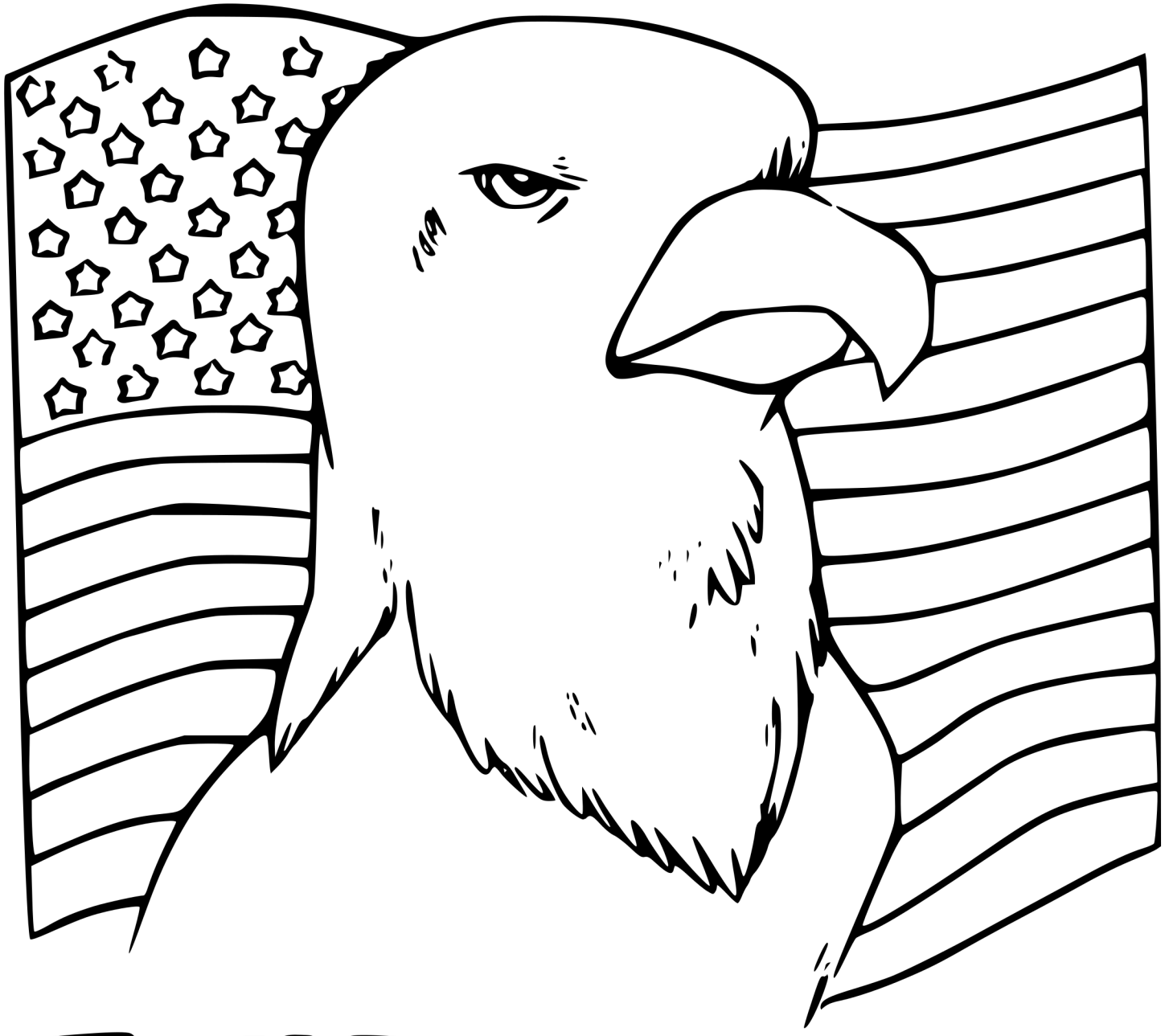




Thank You

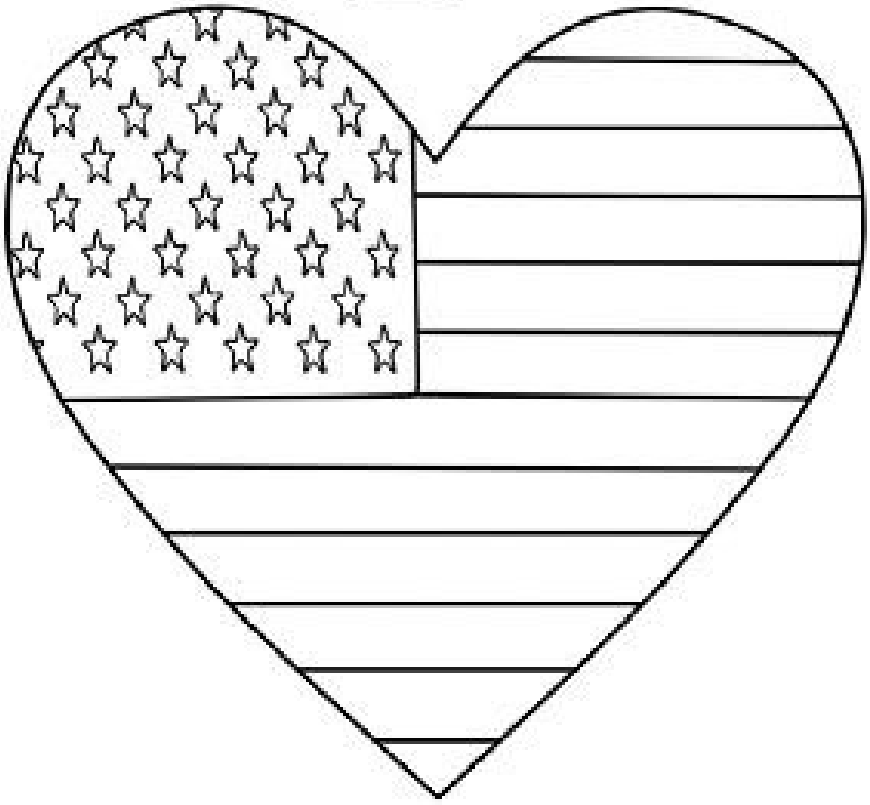






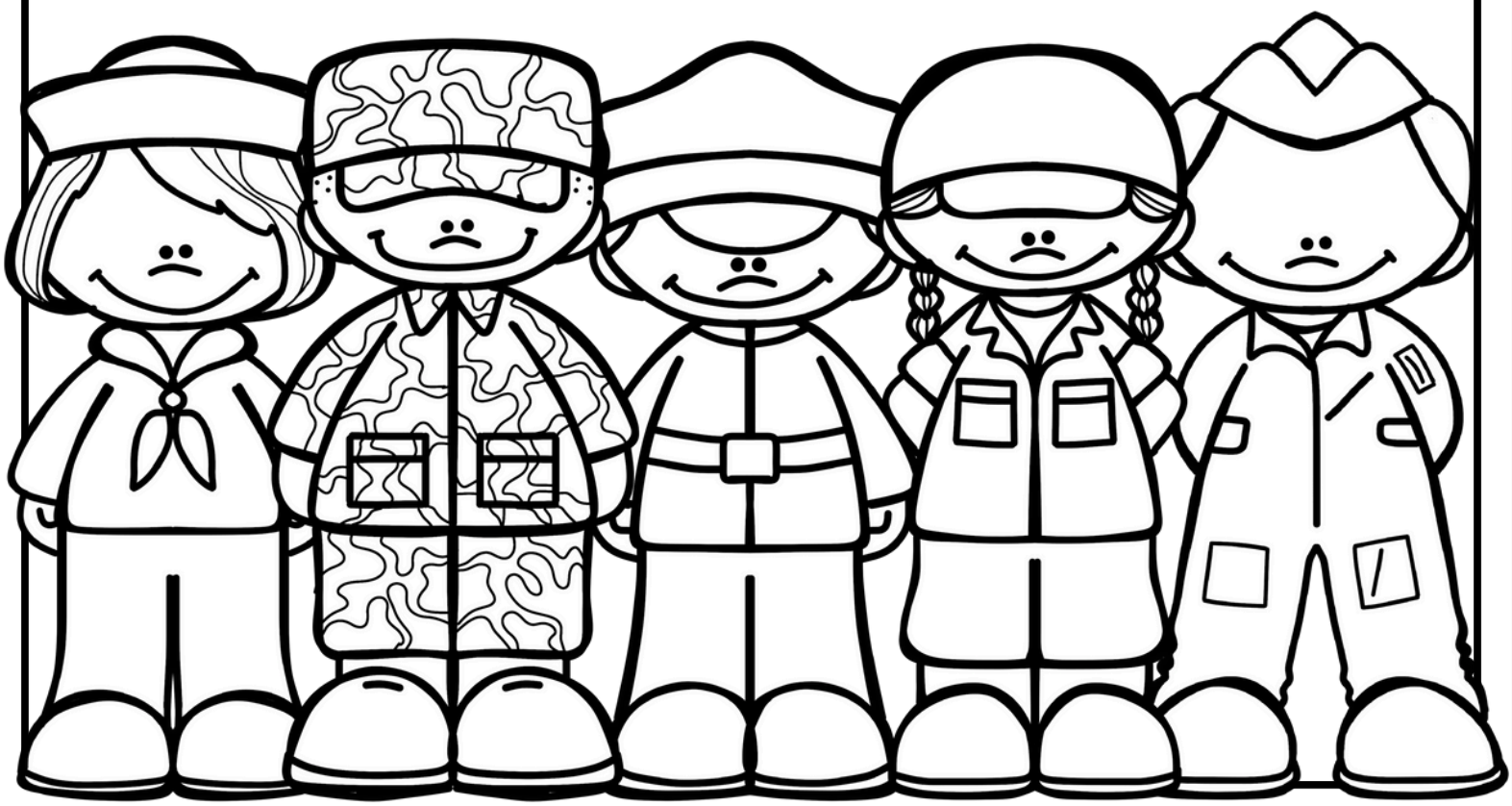
THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY

LAND THAT I LOVE

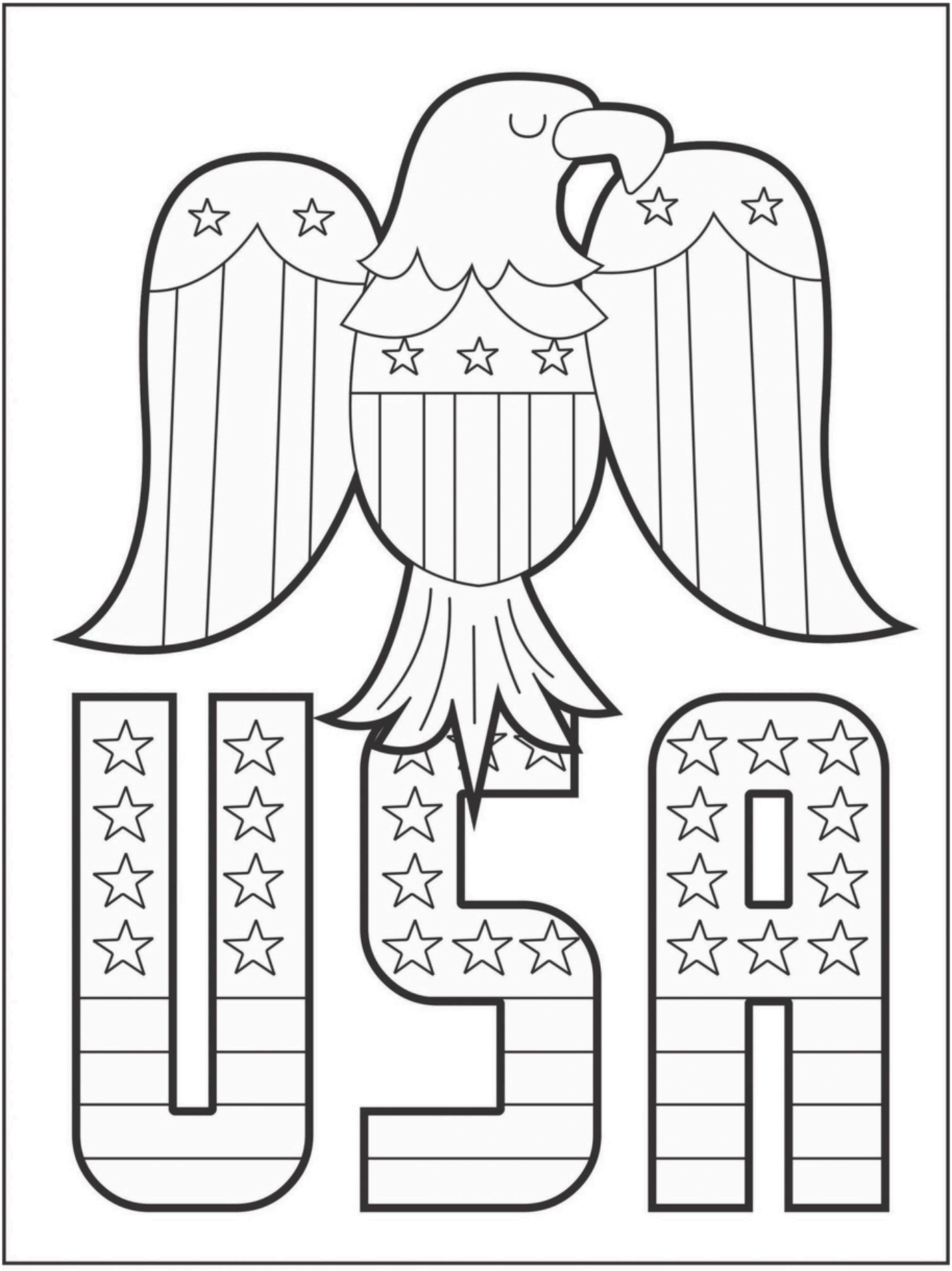




Thank you , Hero!




THANK YOU


USA

Thank You For Your Service



Dear _____,



Sincerely,

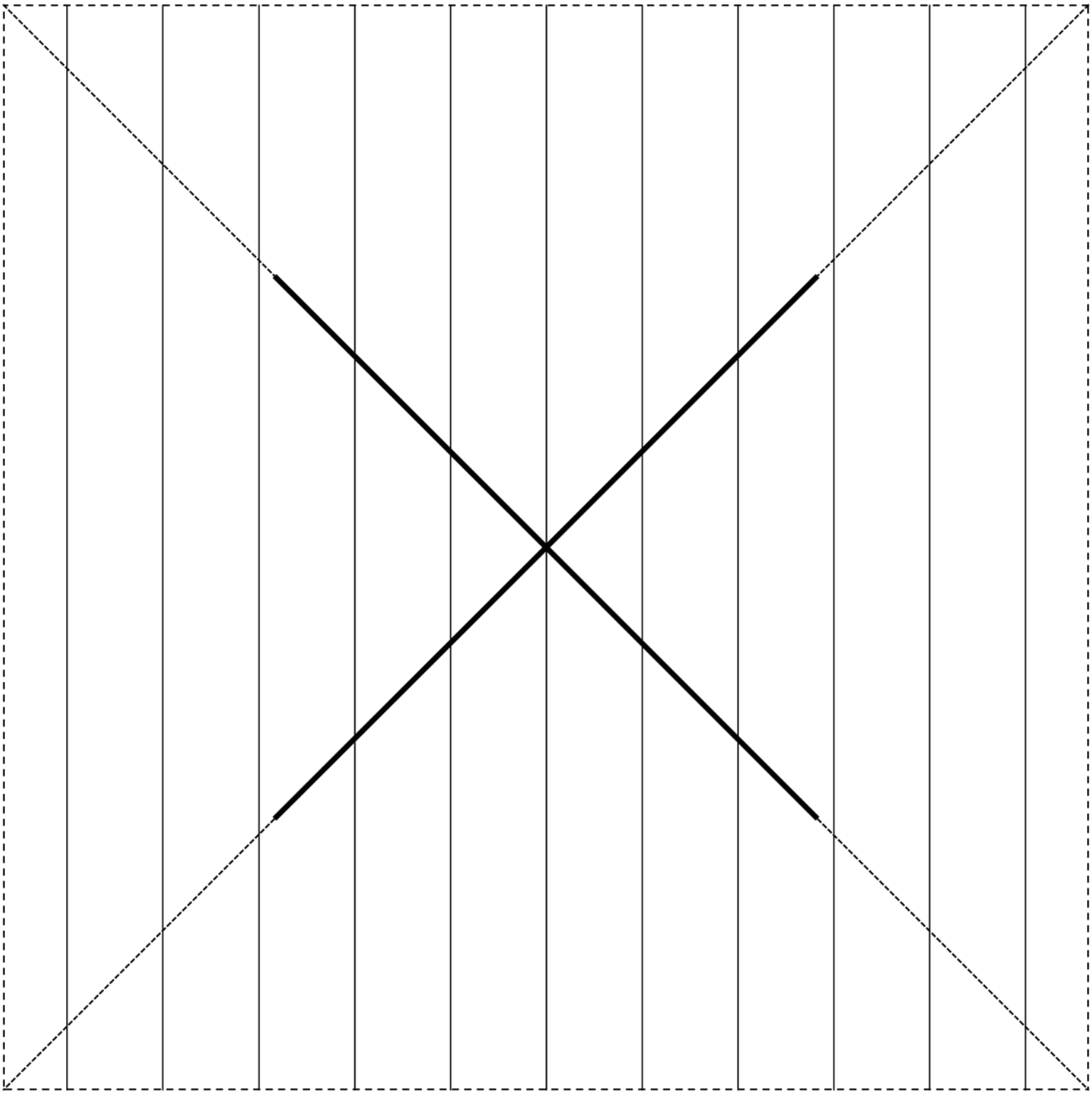
kearsons classroom

American Flag Pinwheels, K-5th

Instructions:

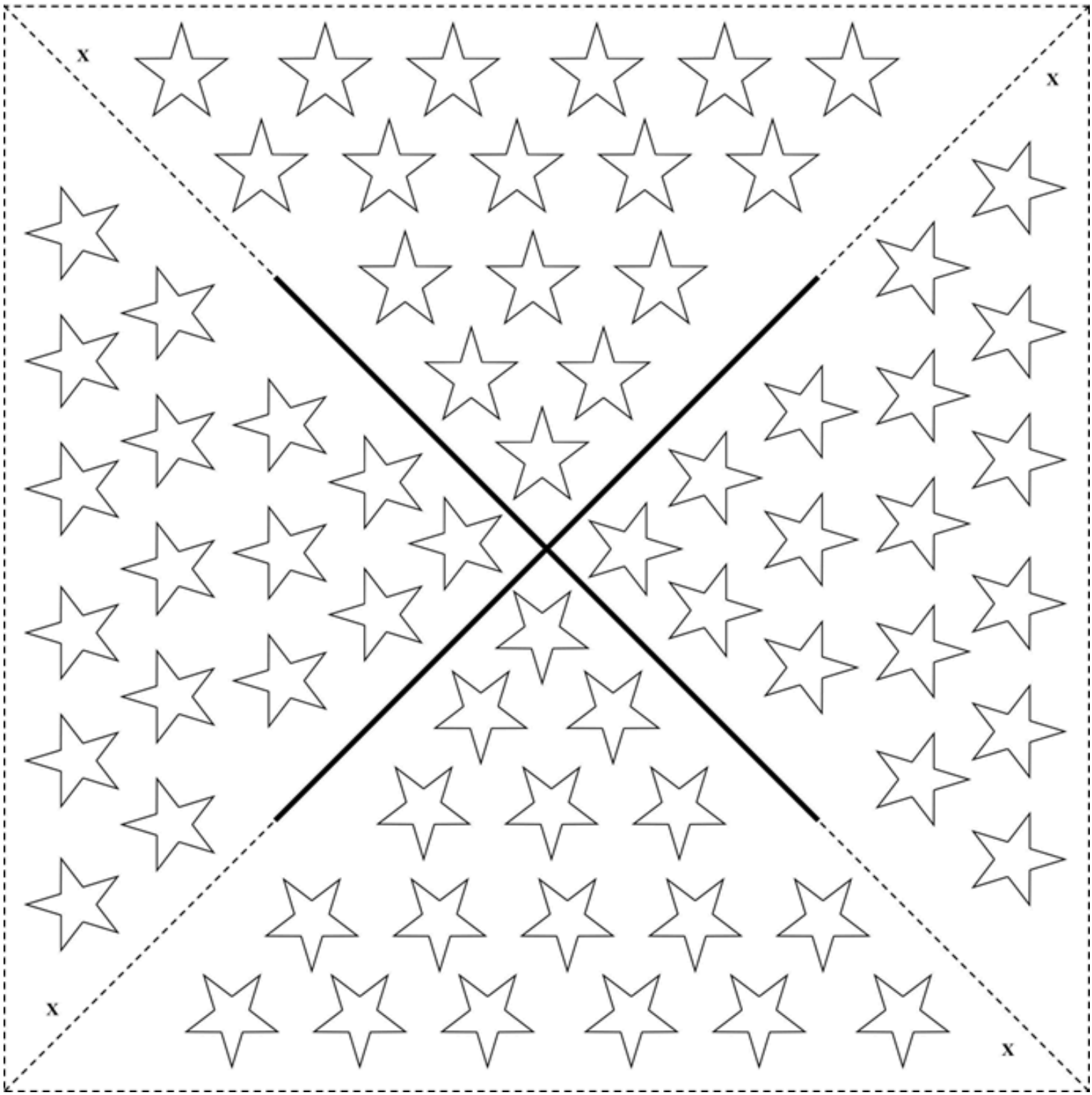
1. Use markers or crayons to color your pinwheel.
2. For a traditional look:
    a. Page one—Color every other stripe red
    b. Page two—Color background blue
3. Cut out along the dotted lines and place the two pieces back-to-back, with colored side out.
4. Look for the small “X” at the points of pinwheel. Gently fold both pieces of paper over (create a soft fold, do not crease the paper) and bring the points to the “X” at the center of the pinwheel. Do not fold points without an “X”.
5. With the help of an adult, place a push pin through the center of the pinwheel, securing all the points in place.
6. Attach the pinwheel to the top of a pencil by pushing the push pin through the eraser.

American Flag Pinwheel | Side 1



American Flag Pinwheels, K-5th

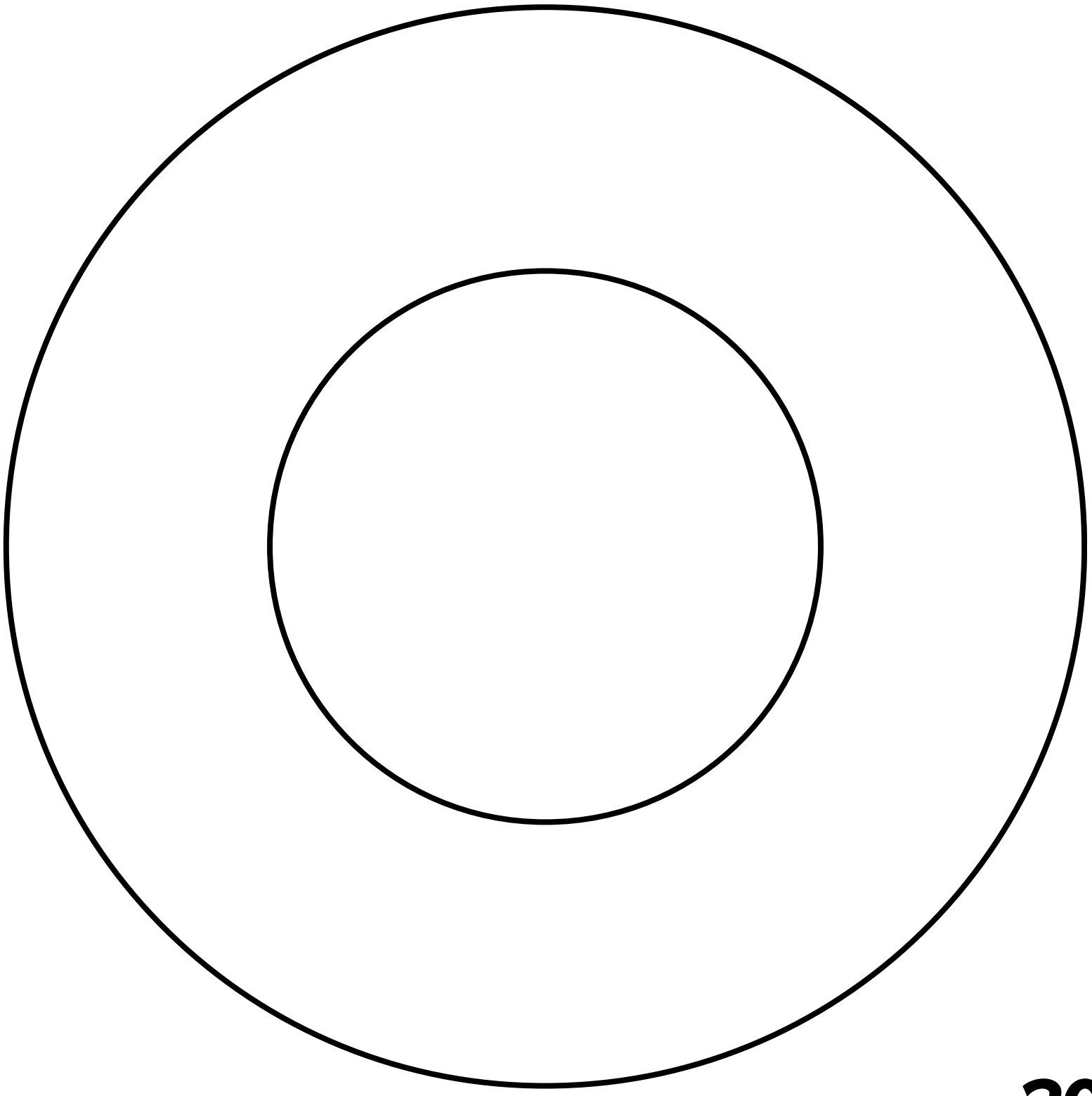
American Flag Pinwheel | Side 2



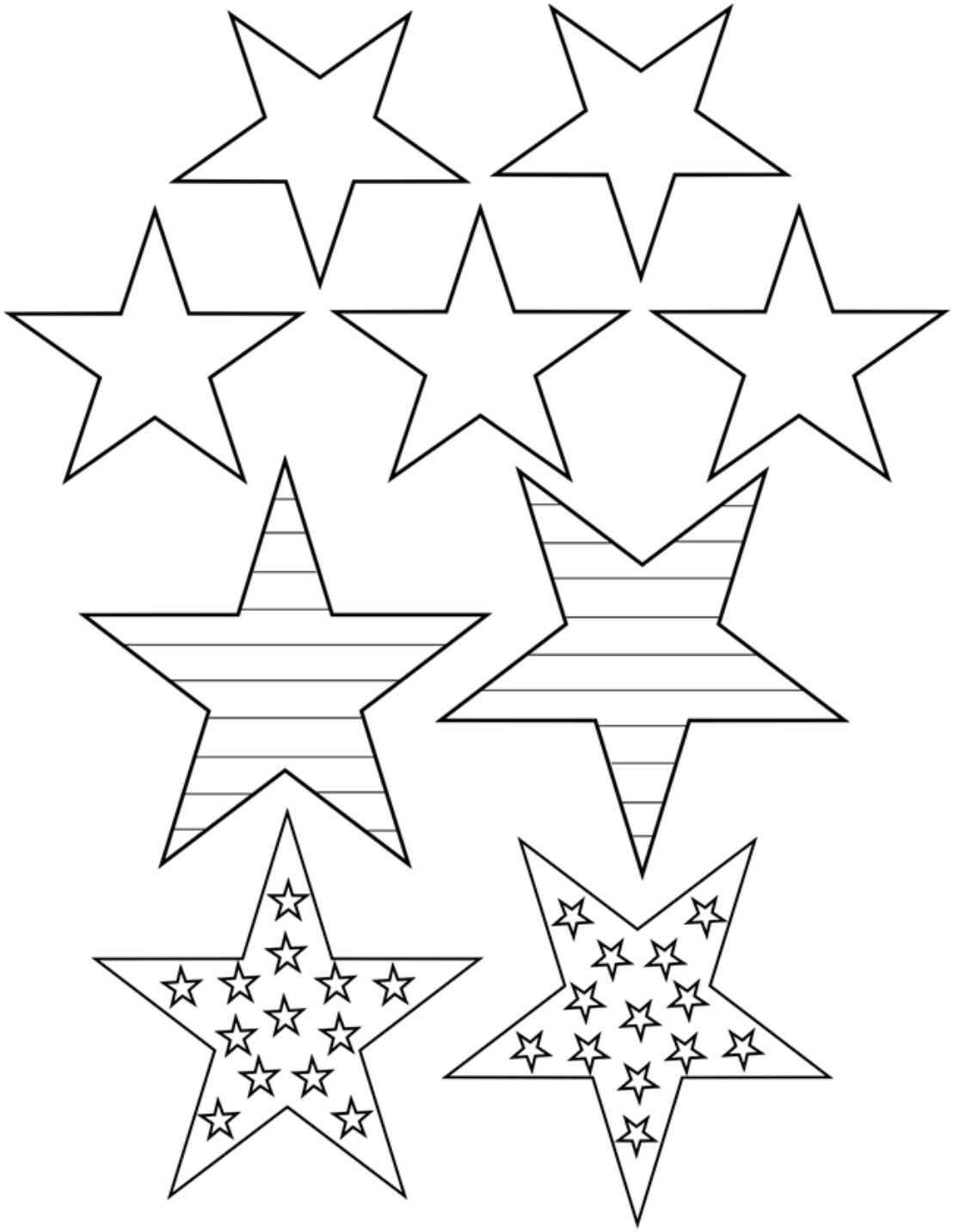
Patriotic Wreaths, K-5th

Instructions:

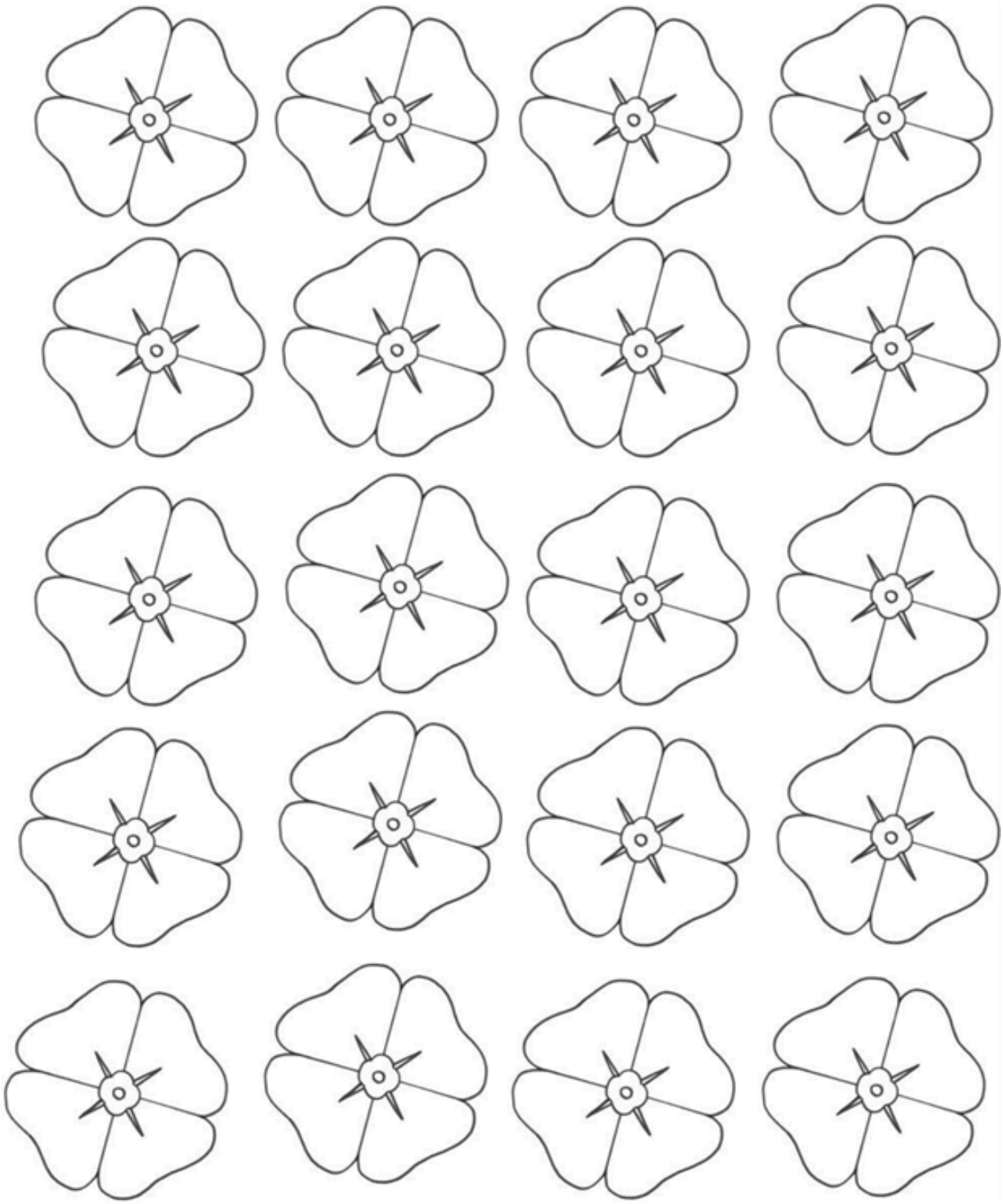
1. Print all sheets on 11X17 card stock.
2. Cut out the base for your wreath—on the bottom of this page.
3. For the 4th of July, Flag Day, and other patriotic holidays, color the stars—for a traditional look, go with red, white, and blue!
4. For Memorial Day or Veterans Day, you could also use the poppies—usually colored red.
5. Cut out your stars or poppies and attach them to the wreath base with a glue stick.
6. Using tape or glue, attach a loop of yarn or ribbon to the top of the wreath and display!



Patriotic Wreaths, K-5th



Patriotic Wreaths, K-5th



Sacrifice Your Scales, K

Students will:
- Deepen their understanding of sacrifice
- Create a rainbow fish art project representing sacrifice
- Reflect on and analyze their experiences of sacrificing

Materials Needed:
- The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister (Lesson could be modified to work without access to this text)
- Six colors of tissue paper in half sheets and one sheet of tinfoil (roughly 6” by 6”)
- Rainbow Fish template
- Glue
- Crayons or paint and brushes
- Character Club Sacrifice video

Introductory Activity:
Explain to students that today’s lesson will be about sacrifice. Read aloud The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister. Explain that students are going to get the chance to make their own rainbow fish.

Whole Group Activity:
Have each student pick one color of tissue paper or the foil and return to their seats with their chosen piece. Ask students if they will be able to make a rainbow fish all by themselves with just their own tissue paper. Ask them what they can do to make a beautiful rainbow fish like they saw in the book. Explain that they will need to walk around and ask their friends to sacrifice some of their tissue paper so they can gather all six colors and the foil for their fish project. They will also need to sacrifice their own paper to their friends. This activity can also be done in small groups with each group making one fish.

Let students walk around the room and gather small pieces or “scales” of all the colors while giving away pieces of their own.

Small Group/Individual Activity:
- Hand out a copy of the fish template to each student or each group. Have students create their “rainbow fish” by gluing their collected “scales” onto the fish template. Students can then decorate the background of the template with paint, crayons, etc.

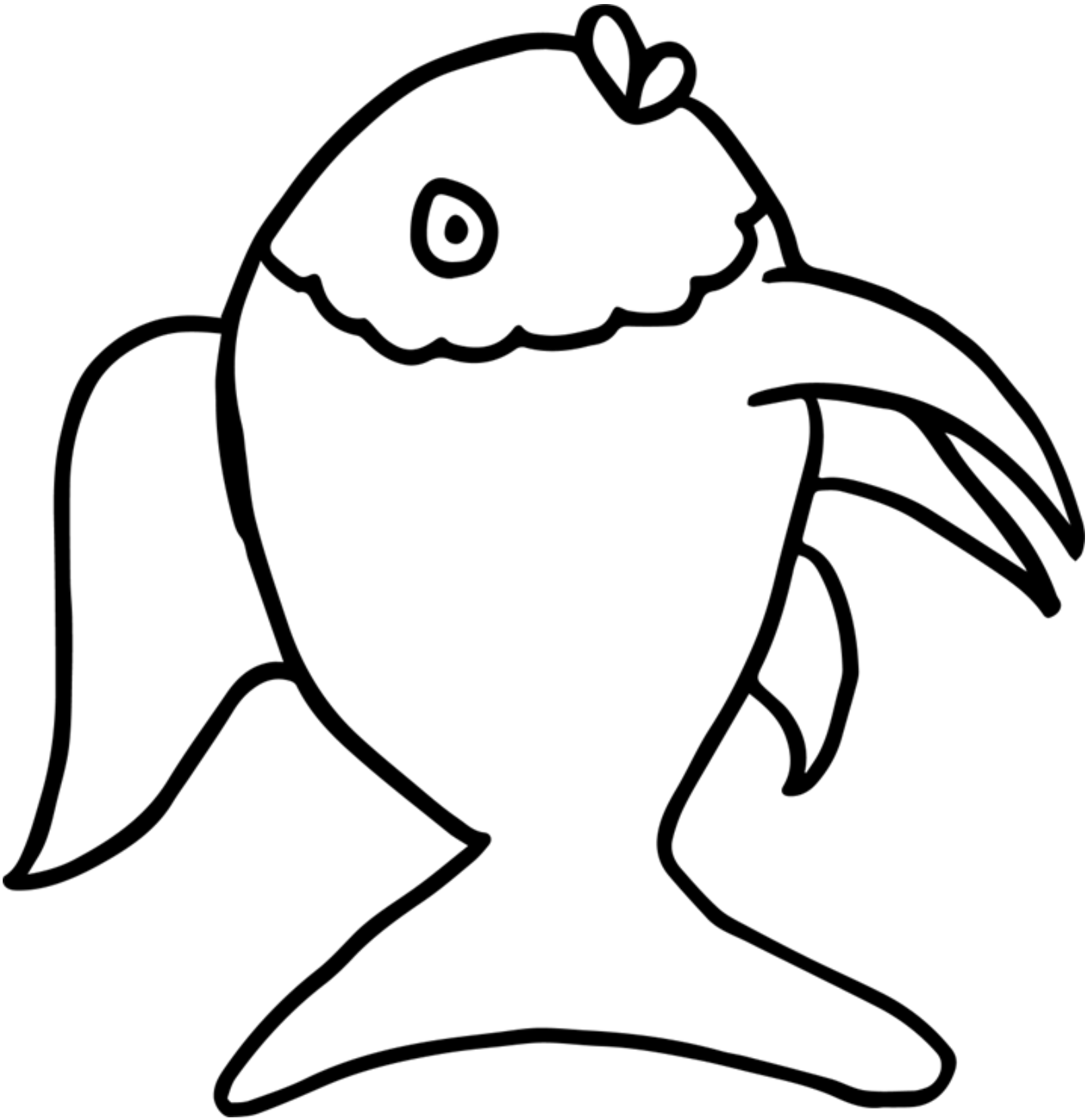
Whole Group Activity:
- After the project is complete, ask students the following guiding questions:
  - How did it feel to sacrifice and tear pieces of your special tissue paper?
  - Have you had to sacrifice something before? Explain.
  - Has someone sacrificed something for you?
  - How did sacrificing pieces of your tissue create something more colorful?
  - Do you think your art is better than it would have been if nobody was willing to make a sacrifice?
  - Praise students for their willingness to sacrifice while they completed the project.

Concluding Activity:
- Show students the Character Club Sacrifice video and discuss how it relates to the Rainbow Fish story and the activity.

Assessment:
- Discussion and observation, reflection on activity, student participation

Extended Activities:
- Have students count the scales on their rainbow fish and write a sentence to add to their fish project. Create a class definition of sacrifice and make a collage of examples and images representing sacrifice.

Sacrifice Your Scales, K



Flag Etiquette, 3rd

Students will:
- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance and understand the meaning
- Demonstrate flag etiquette

Materials Needed:
- The Pledge of Allegiance by Norman Pearl (Lesson could be modified to work without access to this text)
- Classroom flag

Introductory Activity:
- Read aloud the poem “Red, White, and Blue” by Ann McCune:

“Red, White, and Blue”
The red of the rose,
The white of the snows,
The blue of the skies above,
These colors three
Are the ones that we see
In the flag of the land that we love.

- Have students share what they know about the flag.

Whole Group Activity:
- Read aloud The Pledge of Allegiance by Norman Pearl. Discuss vocabulary from the text highlighting the words pledge, allegiance, Republic, indivisible, liberty, justice.

- Discuss and practice flag etiquette:
  1. Stand up straight.
  2. Face the flag.
  3. Take off your hat.
  4. Place your right hand over your heart, left hand by your side.
  5. Begin.

- Create an anchor chart listing flag etiquette.

Small Group Activity:
- Place students into small groups and have them practice reciting the Pledge of Allegiance using flag etiquette.

Concluding Activity:
- Have students think about three things they learned about the Pledge of Allegiance. Have them either share with the class or write in their journals.

Assessment:
- Participation, journal response

Exploring the Six Core Values, 3rd-6th

Students will:

- Research, define, and interpret the six core values of the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor Society. (For more information, visit tinyurl.com/Six-Principles)
- Use these definitions and interpretations in an informational essay

Materials Needed:

- Core Values Word Map worksheet
- Video of Citizen Honors awardee Myles Eckert, (tinyurl.com/citizen-myles)

Introductory Activity (Optional):

- Write or project the six core values of the program on the classroom board: courage, integrity, patriotism, citizenship, commitment, and sacrifice. Instruct students to write a journal entry about what they feel these words have in common and why they have been placed on the board.

Whole Group Activity (Optional):

- Discuss journal entry responses and the purpose of the values.

Small Group Activity:

- Divide students into groups of two to four. Assign each group one of the six core values. Give students copies of the word map or poster paper and these instructions for students to complete:
    a. TASK 1: Write the core value that your group has been assigned in the center box.
    b. TASK 2: As a group, define the core value in your own words.
    c. TASK 3: Identify a minimum of three synonyms for your group's core value.
    d. TASK 4: Identify a minimum of three antonyms for your group's core value.
    e. TASK 5: Leave the "Examples" box on the word map blank.

- Check for understanding of vocabulary before moving on to the next activity.

Whole Group Activity:

- As a class, watch the video about Citizen Honors awardee Myles Eckert (tinyurl.com/citizen-myles). Have the students look for examples of their group's core value as they watch.

Small Group Activity:

- After the video ends, reconvene the groups and have students write examples of their core value from the video in the final space on the word map. Additionally, they can go back and update their definition, synonyms, and antonyms, noting any edits with an asterisk.

Whole Group Activity:

- Have individual groups present their core value definition, synonyms, antonyms, and examples to the class. Ask class members to compare and contrast the words and identify what they have in common. Discuss how the values are related to one another.

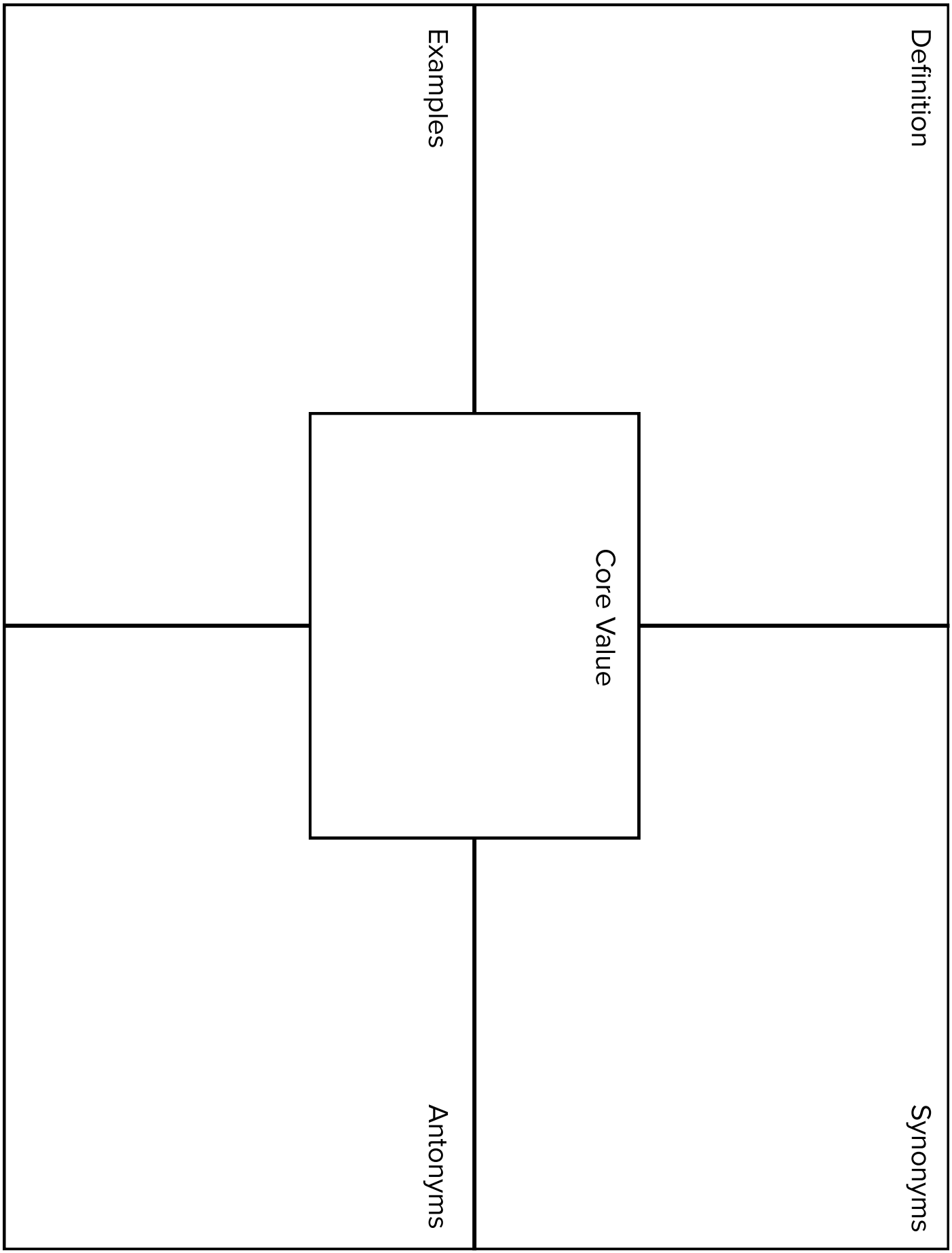
Concluding Activity:

- Lead a discussion on the values and how they relate to the students' lives. Have students write an essay about someone who displays one of the values and how they display that value. In their conclusion or as a separate assignment, have students write about how they can incorporate these values into their daily lives.

Assessment:

- Discussion, poster, essay, presentations, and connections to real-life examples

Exploring the Six Core Values, 3rd-6th



Medal of Honor, 6th-12th

Students will:

- Define symbolism and identify how it is used in the actual design of the three different Medals of Honor
- Research the changes in the Medals and their ribbons over time

Introductory Activity:

- Review the introductory video “In Their Own Words: An Introduction to the Medal of Honor and Its Recipients” (tinyurl.com/MOH-recipients) with the class then lead a brief discussion of the key points of the video.

Small Group/Individual Activity:

- Have students choose a medal design (Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard, Army, Air Force, or Space Force) and re-create it using available media and supplies.

Whole Group Activity:

- Display the students’ work around the room and have them complete a gallery walk during which they will view and critique all the work.

Concluding Activity:

- Have students write a reflection (two paragraphs minimum) or journal entry on their review of the symbolism in the medals.

Assessment:

- Artwork, critique, self-reflection

Resources:

- Medal of Honor: In Their Own Words video (tinyurl.com/MOH-recipients)
- Medal of Honor: The History documentary (tinyurl.com/MOH-history)
- art supplies

Extended Activity:

- The students can create a medal of their own design to honor service members, other public servants, or fellow students. Students can present these medals in a ceremony at the school.

Portrait of a Service Member, 6th-12th

(The length of this lesson could be condensed)

Students will:
- Develop insightful questions that cannot be easily researched through online resources to ask a service member
- Conduct interviews
- Analyze the challenges of a service member

Medal of Honor Focus: Jay Vargas, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam War.
Any Medal of Honor Recipient may be used for this lesson.
Suggestions include Melvin Morris, Leroy Petry, Gary Littrell, or Clinton Romesha.

Teacher Preparation:
- Make contact with a local military branch, VFW, or American Legion to find a veteran or active-duty service member who is willing to visit the classroom.

DAY 1
Introductory Activity:
- Have students read the selected Recipient's Medal of Honor citation and view the video based on his or her story.

Small Group Activity:
- Have students work with a partner to summarize the action(s) for which the Recipient was awarded the Medal of Honor. They should identify any words or phrases they are not familiar with and ask for clarification to better understand the citation.

Whole Group Activity:
- Discuss as a class the Medal of Honor Recipient's actions and how difficult it might have been for him or her to share their story. Explain to students that a veteran or service member will be coming to visit the class and that the students will be preparing questions to ask during the visit. Challenge students to write open-ended questions which are also sensitive to the service member or veterans experience.

Small Group Activity:
- Have students work with a partner to create who, what, when, where, and why questions to ask a veteran or service member. They will write insightful questions to help them learn more about life in a time of war/conflict.

Whole Group Activity:
- Have students share out their questions while you record them for the class. Have students decide as a group the top questions to use during the class interview process. After the discussion, have the students decide which questions are the most thoughtful or thought-provoking as well as appropriate.

- Provide the students with a list of their questions, and have students decide collectively how to divide up the questions. If possible, the list of questions should be provided to the veteran or service member ahead of time so that he or she may be better prepared about the interests of the students.

Concluding Activity:
- Students will be prepared with the question that they will ask the veteran or service member.

DAY 2
Whole Group Activity:
- A veteran or service member will come to speak with the class. The students should listen to the veteran or service member tell his or her story based on military duties, asking the questions they prepared on Day 1. Students should actively listen so that they do not ask a question that the veteran or service member already answered.

Concluding Activity:
- Have students write a reflection on the veteran or service member's visit. The reflection should highlight an area or areas within the presentation that were particularly interesting, inspirational, or previously unknown to the student.

DAY 3
Whole Group Activity:
- After discussing the visit, lead a discussion about the similarities and connections between the Medal of Honor Recipient and the guest speaker.

Concluding Activity:
- Have the students write a thank you card to the veteran or service member.

Assessment:
- Prepared questions
- Written reflection

Resources:
- Medal of Honor citation for chosen Recipient, Living History video for chosen Recipient

In Flanders Fields, 6th-12th



“In Flanders Fields” (1915) by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

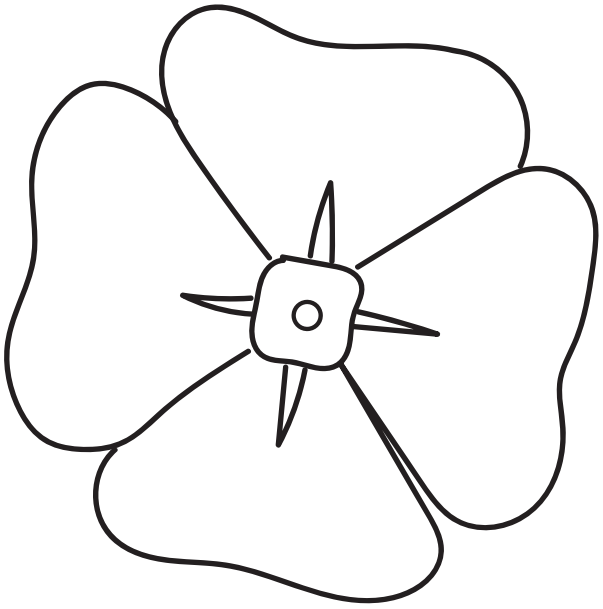
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae was born on November 30, 1872. A Canadian doctor and teacher who served in World War 1, he is best known for his memorial poem “In Flanders Fields.” He died on January 28, 1918.

MILITARY SYMBOLS

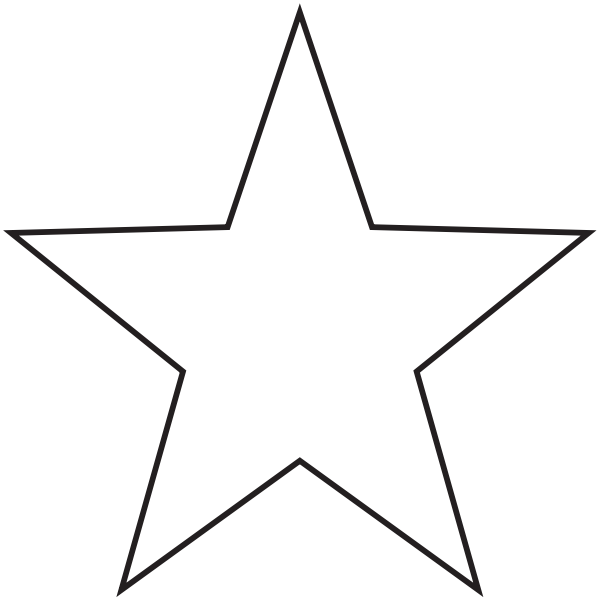
Color these three symbols of the military.



The **red** poppy is a symbol of remembrance and support for the armed forces.



The **yellow** ribbon shows support for the troops currently serving, especially away from home.



The **purple** star stands for schools who care a lot about helping military kids.

Fun Facts about the Military!

- April is the Month of the Military Child.
- April 15th is Purple Up Day, when people wear purple to honor military children.
- May is Military Appreciation Month.
- May 20th is Armed Forces Day, honoring those currently serving in the military.
- Memorial Day, to honor people who died serving in the military, is the last Monday in May.
- Veterans Day, to honor people who used to serve in the military, is November 11th.

BRANCH IDENTIFICATION

What do you already know about the different branches of our military? Can you guess which logo goes with each branch? Draw a line to match them up!



ARMY

NAVY



AIR FORCE



MARINES



COAST GUARD



SPACE FORCE



Left Column going down: Navy, Army, Coast Guard. Right Column going down: Marines, Air Force, Space Force.



The National Guard is made up of individuals who serve part-time. They usually help out with big emergencies in the United States, and only rarely travel to other countries.

Military Buzzwords

ACTIVE DUTY: Someone who currently works full-time for the military

VETERAN: Someone who used to serve in the military

BASE OR POST: The main place where a person in the military works

DEPLOY: Leave your home base to support a mission elsewhere

ENLIST: Join the military

SEEK AND FIND

Find the following items and color them.

 x6

 x4

 x6

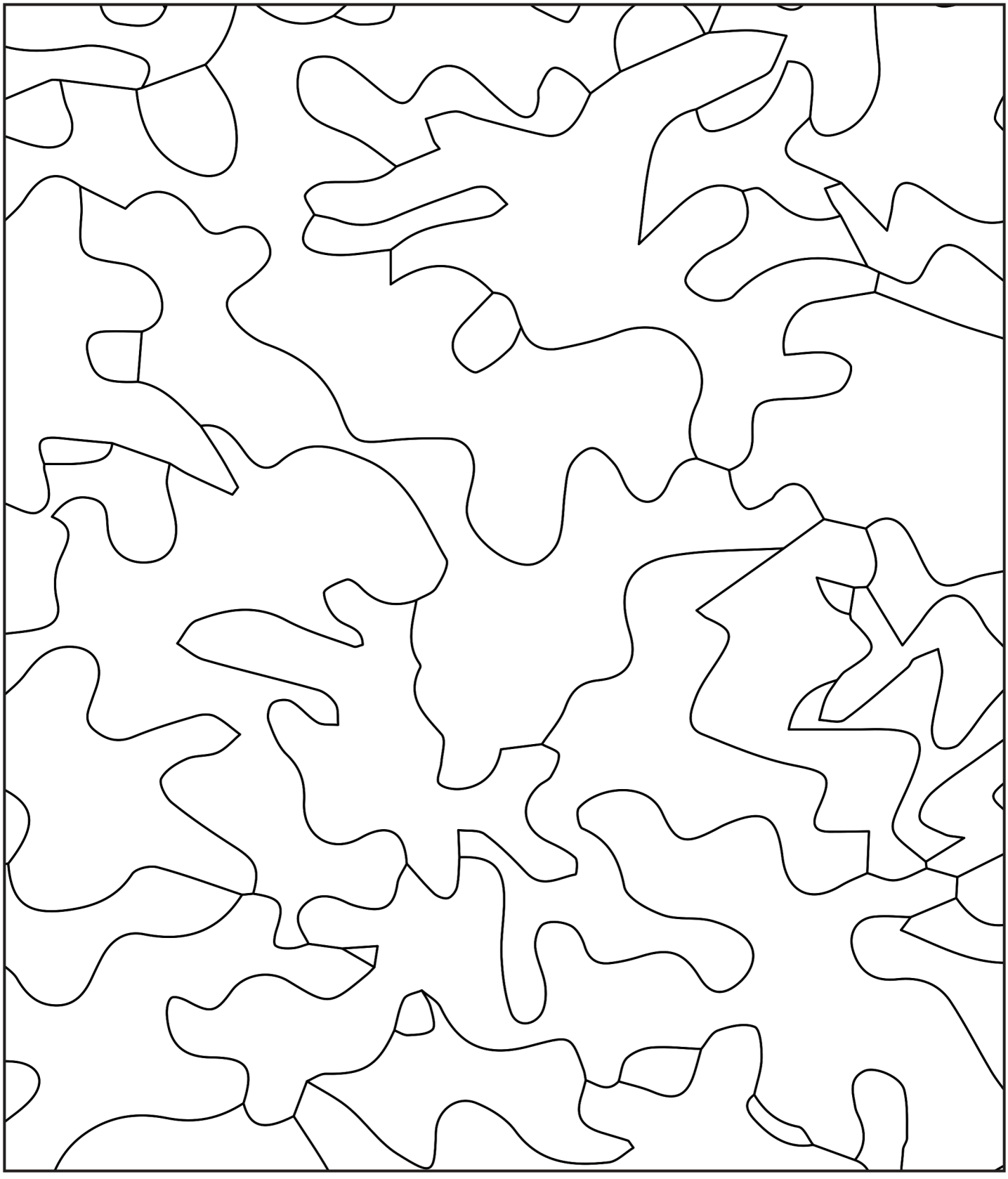
 x10

 x5



CREATIVE CAMOUFLAGE

Create your own camouflage using colors around you.



FILL IN THE BLANK



VETERANS

On Veterans Day we honor all who have _____ (past tense verb) for this country. We celebrate the _____ (noun) and the dead, who have devoted their lives to fighting for the people and beliefs of the place, for all people young and _____ (adjective). Every member deserves to be celebrated as we are _____ (adjective) and feel _____ (feeling) that we live amongst such brave people. They work tirelessly, nights where they may feel _____ (feeling) and _____ (feeling) but keep pushing forward. We celebrate our military members in our _____ (color), white and blue. We sing the _____ (adjective) Anthem and lay _____ (plural noun) on the graves of the fallen. We appreciate all that you do and will continue to be grateful for the land of the _____ (adjective) and home of the _____ (adjective).

Folding the American Flag

When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

When your flag isn't on display, fold it into a triangular shape and store in a safe place to show your respect.



Here's how to do it:

What You Need
A U.S. flag and another person to help fold it.
Watch a video showing how to fold the flag: tinyurl.com/fold-the-flag
See the next page for step-by-step visuals.

Meaning of the Flag-Folding Ceremony
The U.S. flag-folding ceremony represents the principles that guided the founders of our nation.

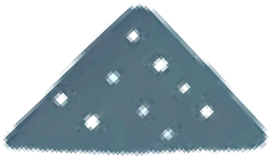
The portion of the flag denoting honor is the corner of blue containing the stars that represent our 50 states. The corner of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped on the casket of a veteran.

In the U.S. Armed Forces, at the ceremony of retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's dead. The next morning it is brought out and, with the accompanying sound of reveille, is raised on the flagpole.

Flag etiquette is an important part of the American tradition that ensure the flag is treated with the dignity it deserves. Established by Congress in 1942, the official U.S. Flag Code created guidelines for the care and display of the flag. Although it does not describe an official method for folding the flag, the rules do state that you should never store a flag in a way where it can get torn, soiled, or damaged. You should also never the let the flag touch anything beneath it, such as the ground or floor.
Over time, a triangular shape has become the traditional way to fold the flag and store it in a safe manner. The exact origin of this specific procedure is unknown, but it may trace back to the Gold Star Mothers of America (organization of mothers who have lost sons or daughters serving in the military) or the United States Air Force Academy.

Folding the American Flag: Step by Step

Watch a video showing how to fold the flag: tinyurl.com/fold-the-flag





It takes two people to fold the flag properly, as it should never touch the ground. Both people should hold out the flag waist high, right side up, with its surface parallel to the ground, keeping the tension in the fabric at all times.

---

1 

Fold the flag in half lengthwise, bringing the striped lower section over the canton (which is the blue field of stars) and holding the edges together. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

---

2 

Fold it again lengthwise, bringing the canton to the outside. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

---

3 

Start a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge up to meet the open edge. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of their life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

---

4 

The outer point is then turned inward to form a second triangle. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature and our trust in a greater power.

---

5 

Continue folding the flag in this manner eight more times. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country.

---

6 

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie; it is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

---

7 

The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, who protect our country and flag against all enemies.

---

8 

The eighth fold is a tribute to all of those who have passed away.

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9 

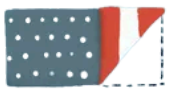
The ninth fold is a tribute to women and mothers.

---

10 

The tenth fold is a tribute to fathers.

---

11 

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Jewish citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

---

12 

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of Christian citizens, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

---

13 

The last fold, when the flag is completely folded into a neat triangle, ensures the stars face upwards—reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."



PURPLE STAR AWARD
KENTUCKY

TEAM KENTUCKY®

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES