

Name _____

Date _____



Veterans Day

From Armistice Day to Veterans Day

A veteran is someone who served in the armed forces or fought in a war. And one of the biggest wars ever was World War I, fought in Europe from 1914 to 1918. People all over the world were praying for peace and an end to war.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day
Of the 11th month, the year 1918,
A door was shut on the First World War,
An armistice said no more fighting was called for.
This meant peace for all the armed forces,
No more tanks, no more guns or warships.
The US president, Woodrow Wilson,
Wanted to honor and thank the millions
Who fought and died, sacrificing their lives
For the love of country and common good.
So, he declared the 11th of November:
Armistice Day, a day to remember
The sacrifices soldiers made.
It became a legal holiday in 1938.
Then came the Second World War,
It required more armed forces than before,
And so some groups in the USA
Said Armistice Day needed a new name.
Armistice Day was for World War I,
But Veterans Day would be for everyone,
Every American who fought in any war.
So, Congress changed the name in 1954.

With Veterans Day we won't ever forget
The story of every soldier, every vet.
Imagine risking your life so others could live,
That's one of the biggest gifts anyone could give.
You may have some vets in your family tree,
Who fought for a better life for you and me.
So, on 11/11 we honor and praise
And march in parades to celebrate
Those who fought for the United States:
Veterans, whose patriotism is great.

"To all our veterans here today, veterans across America: if you serve here at home or overseas; in wartime or in peace; if you serve proudly in the Army, Navy, Airforce, Marines or Coast Guard, we remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Today, we gather once more to salute every patriot who has ever proudly worn the uniform of the United States of America. On this day and every day, we thank you."