

Honoring Veterans

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in the First World War. Commemorated as Armistice Day beginning the following year, November 11th became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans -- living or dead -- but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World Wars I and II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Britain and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/history-of-veterans-day>

Updated as of 2016

American Revolution (1775–1783)	
Total service members	217,000
Battle deaths	4,435
Nonmortal woundings	6,188
War of 1812 (1812–1815)	
Total service members	286,730
Battle deaths	2,260
Nonmortal woundings	4,505
Indian Wars (approx. 1817–1898)	
Total service members	106,000
Battle deaths	1,000
Mexican War (1846–1848)	
Total service members	78,718
Battle deaths	1,733
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	11,550
Nonmortal woundings	4,152
Civil War (1861–1865)	
Total service members (Union)	2,213,363
Battle deaths (Union)	140,414
Other deaths in service (non-theater) (Union)	224,097
Nonmortal woundings (Union)	281,881
Total servicemembers (Conf.)	1,050,000
Battle deaths (Conf.)	74,524
Other deaths in service (nontheater) (Conf.)	59,297
Nonmortal woundings (Conf.)	Unknown
Spanish-American War (1898–1902)	
Total servicemembers	306,760
Battle deaths	385
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	2,061
Nonmortal woundings	1,662
World War I (1917–1918)	
Total service members	4,734,991
Battle deaths	53,402
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	63,114
Nonmortal woundings	204,002
Living veterans	0
World War II (1940–1945)	
Total service members	16,112,566
Battle deaths	291,557

Other deaths in service (nontheater)	113,842
Nonmortal woundings	670,846
Living veterans	696,000
Korean War (1950–1953)	
Total service members	5,720,000
Serving in-theater	1,789,000
Battle deaths	33,741
Other deaths in service (theater)	2,835
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	17,672
Nonmortal woundings	103,284
Living veterans	1,592,000
Vietnam War (1964–1975)	
Total service members	8,744,000
Serving in-theater	3,403,000
Battle deaths	47,434
Other deaths in service (theater)	10,786
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	32,000
Nonmortal woundings	153,303
Living veterans	6,953,000
Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990–1991)	
Total service members	2,322,000
Serving in-theater	694,550
Battle deaths	148
Other deaths in service (theater)	235
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	1,565
Nonmortal woundings	467
Living veterans	4,483,000
America's Wars Total	
Military service during war	41,892,128
Battle deaths	651,031
Other deaths in service (theater)	308,800
Other deaths in service (nontheater)	230,254
Nonmortal woundings	1,430,290
Living war veterans	16,104,000
Living veterans (periods of War & Peace)	21,368,000
Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 - present)	
Living veterans	4,398,000

Source: <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/va-veterans-62017.pdf>

1. Use the data above to create 3 questions to ask your class tomorrow. Your questions should help students understand the magnitude of American Veteran's service in our country.

2. Work out the answers to your questions before presenting them to your class.