

Meet a Soldier

Veterans visit classrooms across the country to talk with students.

When Christopher Bain visits schools, he shows students his Army uniform. He also talks to them about the American flag and what it **symbolizes**, or represents.

Bain is a **veteran** who lives in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. A veteran is a person who has served in the U.S. armed forces. November 11 is **Veterans Day**, a day when Americans honor veterans. There are approximately 22.7 million U.S. veterans living today.

Bain is just one of many veterans who visits with students. Now a new program is helping to connect more students with veterans like Bain. It is called Take a Veteran to School Day. The program was created by the History Channel. It encourages schools to invite veterans to speak to students of all ages. Representatives from the History Channel say it's important that students know veterans.

One school to get on board with the program was Steven G. Schorr Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada. That's where the Take a Veteran to School Day program was launched in May of 2007. Third graders met several veterans at the event. Jennifer Rowland is a teacher at the school. "My students were really able to grasp the meaning and importance of Veterans Day by meeting an actual veteran," she told *WR News*. "They loved trying on and touching an actual [military] helmet!"

Veterans get a lot out of the experience too. Bain served in the Iraq war. "I tell [students] a little bit about my story," he told *WR News*. "I wanted to serve my country so I can keep [Americans'] way of life and keep the freedoms that we have."

Veterans Day Facts

Nearly 2 million U.S. veterans are women.

The country's oldest and largest Veterans Day parade is held in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1968, Congress passed a law to move Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The holiday was switched back to November 11 in 1978.

Unexpected Veterans

Men and women are not the only military heroes—dogs can be veterans too! Dogs, such as German shepherds, began serving in the U.S. armed forces in the 1940s. Today they continue to assist soldiers. Military dogs **patrol**, or guard, areas and sniff out bombs and traps.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does the Take a Veteran to School Day program encourage schools to do?

- A organize field trips for students to go meet veterans
- B invite veterans to speak to students of all ages
- C donate to different veteran organizations
- D organize events to honor veterans on Veterans Day

2. What does the text list?

- A different veterans that have visited schools
- B different wars American veterans have fought in
- C different ways people can support veterans
- D different facts about Veterans Day

3. Read the following paragraph from the text:

“One school to get on board with the program was Steven G. Schorr Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada. That’s where the Take a Veteran to School Day program was launched in May of 2007. Third graders met several veterans at the event. Jennifer Rowland is a teacher at the school. ‘My students were really able to grasp the meaning and importance of Veterans Day by meeting an actual veteran,’ she told WR News. ‘They loved trying on and touching an actual [military] helmet!’”

Based on this information, why is the Take a Veteran to School Day program an effective way to help students understand the contribution of veterans?

- A It helps students understand the contribution of veterans by giving them the chance to write a research report about veterans.
- B It helps students understand the contribution of veterans by giving them the chance to experience the work that veterans have done.
- C It helps students understand the contribution of veterans by giving them the chance to meet and connect with a veteran.
- D It helps students understand the contribution of veterans by giving them the chance to celebrate veterans in their schools.

4. Based on the text, why might the Take a Veteran to School Day program be a positive program for veterans?

- A It gives veterans a chance to take a break from their daily lives.
- B It gives veterans a chance to tell their stories and connect with students.
- C It gives veterans a chance to find work after they return home from war.
- D It gives veterans a chance to learn more about different schools across the country.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A a school program that connects students with veterans
- B the major statistics about the number of veterans in America
- C how Veterans Day was created
- D the importance of communication with veterans

6. What does veteran Christopher Bain do when he visits schools?

7. Imagine you had to convince the principal of a school that her school should get on board with the Take a Veteran to School Day program. Explain what argument you would give this principal by using supporting information from the text.

8. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Veterans Day takes place on November 11, _____ it used to be in October.

- A because
- B until
- C although
- D since

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In May of 2007, the History Channel launched a program to connect veterans with students across the country.

What? _____

(did) What? launched a program

Why? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** symbolize: to represent, often by a sign or picture.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 840

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6. What does veteran Christopher Bain do when he visits schools?

Suggested answer: He shows students his Army uniform. He also talks to them about the American flag and what it symbolizes. He also tells students a little bit about his story.

7. Imagine you had to convince the principal of a school that her school should get on board with the Take a Veteran to School Day program. Explain what argument you would give this principal by using supporting information from the text.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. Students may explain that the program would be a great learning experience for students as it gives them the chance to meet and connect with veterans and understand their stories and their work. Students may also note that the program should be adopted because it also provides a benefit to the veterans, enabling them to share their stories and connect with students. This would be an experience that is positive and helpful to both students and the veterans they meet.

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What? **the History Channel**

(did) What? launched a program

Why? **to connect veterans with students**

Where? **across the country**

When? **in May of 2007**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** symbolize: to represent, often by a sign or picture.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.