

IT'S VETERANS DAY



After four years of fighting and the loss of millions of lives, the First World War finally ended on November 11, 1918. Never before had the world seen such devastating combat. People across Europe, Russia, and the United States hoped a war like this would never happen again.

To celebrate the day peace returned and to honor those who made it possible through their brave service in the armed forces, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 Armistice Day (an **armistice** is an agreement to stop fighting). This holiday became a federal holiday in 1938.

In 1954, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day in order to honor the men and women who have served in any of the five branches of the U.S. armed forces at any time. They are known as **veterans**. On this holiday, it is common to see people flying American flags, participating in local parades, and visiting war memorials.

Many countries around the world also honor their veterans on or around November 11. In some countries the holiday is called Armistice Day, while in others, including England, Canada, and Australia, this holiday is known as Remembrance Day. In these countries, it is common to see people wearing red flowers on their clothes in remembrance of the soldiers who fought and died.

Veterans Day is a day to honor our nation's veterans and to take a moment to thank them for their service.

INSTRUCTIONS: Review the passage and answer each question below.

1. Why is Veterans Day celebrated on November 11? _____

2. Why was Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day? _____

3. What does armistice mean? _____

4. Is Veterans Day celebrated internationally? _____

THINK ABOUT IT: This Veterans Day I will _____
_____.