

Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 5 th and 6 th	Lesson: Memorial Day; Find a Way to Serve on Memorial Day in Remembrance of Our Fallen Heroes

OBJECTIVES: NCSSS, 1. CULTURE Through the study of culture and cultural diversity, learners understand how human beings create, learn, share, and adapt to culture, and appreciate the role of culture in shaping their lives and society, as well the lives and societies of others.		STRATEGIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> K-W-L Worksheet <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group <p>*Before conducting this lesson, make sure you are aware of students who may have parents deployed in the Military, or who may be Gold Star Children.</p>
MATERIALS:	Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of the Memorial Day K-W-L Worksheet; copies of <i>America's White Table</i> Story Elements Worksheet; copies of <i>America's White Table</i> Matching Worksheet; copies of the Memorial Day Quilt Drawing sheet.	
Engage: Hook the students	Activity – Hand out the Memorial Day K-W-L Worksheet. Give the students a few minutes to fill in the first section- “What I Know”. Play the History of Memorial Day Video, https://youtu.be/YChfpVD5xpk Students will complete the K-W-L Worksheet.	
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.	Play the Read Aloud book, <i>America's White Table</i> , author, Margot Theis Raven, Illustrator Mike Benny https://youtu.be/uePSkyqYesE Answer the following Reflection Questions from <i>America's White Table</i> video: Why did the family set up this small white table? What effect did it have on their Uncle John? How do you think setting the white table would affect Veterans that we know today? What is a hero to you? Explain to students that families who have a loved one who has died while they are on active duty in the military are called Gold Star Families.	
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.	Decoration Day armed forces POW Memorial Day Civil War MIA Poppies Vietnam War Hero	
Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.	Students will complete: the K-W-L Memorial Day Worksheet; <i>America's White Table</i> Story Elements Worksheet; <i>America's White Table</i> Matching Worksheet; draw and color the pieces of the Memorial Day Quilt Drawing sheet	
Evaluate: assessment.	K-W-L Memorial Day Worksheet, <i>America's White Table</i> Story Elements Worksheet; <i>America's White Table</i> Matching Worksheet	
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project	Students can pick from many projects, placing small flags on the graves of fallen heroes at a local cemetery; make cards and send them to veterans in a local VA Home, VA Hospital or nursing home; share what you have learned about Memorial Day in class with your family and friends; interview a veteran as a part of the Wreaths Across America Oral History Project.	

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K-W-L
Memorial Day

What I KNOW ?	What I WANT to Know?	What I LEARNED ?

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Story Elements for *America's White Table* By Margot Raven

Name of the Story:

Setting:

Characters:

Plot:

Summarize the Story:

Theme (Lesson Learned)

Did you enjoy the story:

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America's White Table By Margot Raven

The table honors the men and women who served in America's Armed Forces, "You are not forgotten so long as there is one left in whom your memory remains."

Write the word from the WORD BANK below.

1. _____ To remind us of the life, and the blood that was shed.
2. _____ Reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.
3. _____ Upside-down to symbolize their inability to share this evening with us.
4. _____ Left empty and tilted to show the missing soldiers.
5. _____ Round to show our everlasting devotion and concern for our fallen and missing comrades.
6. _____ It is white to symbolize the purity of soldiers' motives when answering the call to duty.
7. _____ Often black as a reminder of the isolation, deprivation, and cruel fate our missing.
8. _____ It is red to symbolize our commitment and continued determination to account for our missing.
9. _____ Represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country.
10. _____ Reminds us of the tears endured by those missing and their families who still seek answers.

table	glass	chair	rose	book of faith
salt	napkin	tablecloth	vase tied with ribbon	lemon slice

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The Making of a Memorial Day Quilt

Using information you learned in America's White Table, draw your version of what a Missing Man Table would look like. In the United States, Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day honors those who have died while serving in the armed forces, and those who are missing in action. In the square below, draw and color a picture to remember and honor the brave men and women who died protecting our freedoms. When all of the pictures are finished, cut out the squares, and join them all together to make a class Memorial Day Remembrance Quilt.

