

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Veterans Day

by Kelly Hashway

When you think of November, the first holiday that probably comes to mind is Thanksgiving. And while Thanksgiving is an important holiday and a great time to give thanks, there's another holiday that falls in November. And it's a holiday that should also make us give thanks. It's Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It's a day to honor those who served in the military, known as veterans. The holiday began in 1919, when United States President Woodrow Wilson decided we should have a day to reflect on all the people who courageously fought for our country. It's a time to be thankful for those veterans who died so we could be free.

Later in 1938, President Calvin Coolidge passed an act to make November 11 a legal holiday. He declared that the day be celebrated in dedication to world peace because while those veterans fought in wars, we must remember that they fought for peace. The holiday was then referred to as Armistice Day in honor of those veterans who lost their lives in World War I.

In 1953, a man named Alvin King started a campaign to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day because he felt all veterans should be honored, not just those who died at war. This campaign led to President Dwight Eisenhower signing a law in 1954 to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day.



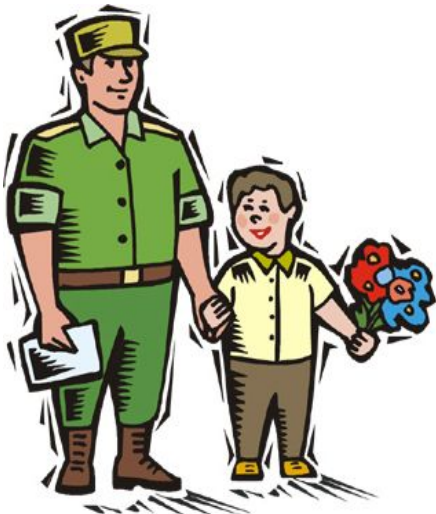
## Words to Know

**veteran** - a person who served in the military

**military** - our country's army, navy, air force, marines, and coast guard

**armistice** - an agreement between two countries to stop fighting a war

In other parts of the world, November 11 is still celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day because it marks the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. But whether you call it Veterans Day, Remembrance Day, or Armistice Day, November 11 is a time to honor all those who served in the military.



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1. What is the purpose of Veterans Day?
- a. to celebrate our country's independence
  - b. to celebrate and remember the end of World War II
  - c. to learn about our country's military
  - d. to honor and remember people who served in the military

2. Why is Veterans Day celebrated on November 11?
- a. It marks the beginning of World War I.
  - b. It celebrates the end of fighting in World War I.
  - c. It is the day when most veterans were born.
  - d. It is close to Thanksgiving.

3. Why did Alvin King want to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day?

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4. When was the holiday's name officially changed to Veterans Day?

- a. about 40 years ago
- b. about 70 years ago
- c. about 60 years ago
- d. about 90 years ago

5. Other countries have different names for Veterans Day. Name two names that other countries use for this day.

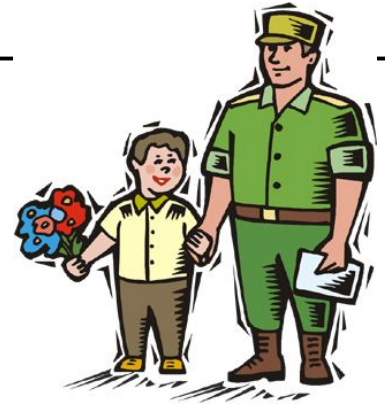
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Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. courageously

a. rule set by a country

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. campaign

b. people who served in the military

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. military

c. army, navy, air force, marines, and coast guard

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. veterans

d. bravely

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. armistice

e. to work towards a goal

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. law

f. opposite of war

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. peace

g. writing your name in cursive

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. signing

h. an agreement between two countries to stop fighting a war

**Now try this:** Reread the article and highlight each of the vocabulary words.



# ANSWER KEY

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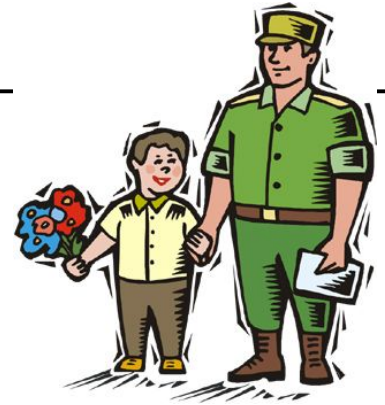
1. What is the purpose of Veterans Day? **d**
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  - b. to celebrate and remember the end of World War II
  - c. to learn about our country's military
  - d. **to honor and remember people who served in the military**
2. Why is Veterans Day celebrated on November 11? **b**
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  - b. **It celebrates the end of fighting in World War I.**
  - c. It is the day when most veterans were born.
  - d. It is close to Thanksgiving.
3. Why did Alvin King want to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day?  
**He felt all veterans should be honored, not just those who died in war.**
4. When was the holiday's name officially changed to Veterans Day? **c**

a. about 40 years ago	b. about 70 years ago
c. <b><u>about 60 years ago</u></b>	d. about 90 years ago
5. Other countries have different names for Veterans Day. Name two names that other countries use for this day.  
**Remembrance Day and Armistice Day**

# ANSWER KEY

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Match each of the the vocabulary words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

- |                          |                                                                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>d</b> 1. courageously | <b>a.</b> rule set by a country                                     |
| <b>e</b> 2. campaign     | <b>b.</b> people who served in the military                         |
| <b>c</b> 3. military     | <b>c.</b> army, navy, air force, marines, and coast guard           |
| <b>b</b> 4. veterans     | <b>d.</b> bravely                                                   |
| <b>h</b> 5. armistice    | <b>e.</b> to work towards a goal                                    |
| <b>a</b> 6. law          | <b>f.</b> opposite of war                                           |
| <b>f</b> 7. peace        | <b>g.</b> writing your name in cursive                              |
| <b>g</b> 8. signing      | <b>h.</b> an agreement between two countries to stop fighting a war |

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