



## Take a Veteran to School Day™

### Suggested Questions and Tips for Take a Veteran to School Day

Take a Veteran to School Day™ is designed to introduce students to learn about the experiences of veterans and about important concepts such as service, commitment and teamwork.

If students have the opportunity to participate in a Question and Answer session with veterans, there are some important things to consider and keep in mind.

1. If possible, make sure students are familiar with the five branches of the U.S. military and the general missions of each branch for the veteran's visit.
2. Have students develop questions before the Q&A session and review them before their visit with veterans.
3. Explain to students that they should not be afraid to ask about veterans' combat experiences, but should do so respectfully. Questions like "Did you serve overseas?" or "What was your most challenging experience?" are greatly preferred and more substantive than, "Did you kill anyone while serving"?
4. If you plan to conduct oral histories with your veteran visitors and record the conversation, see tips in the Teacher Resources section at [www.veterans.com](http://www.veterans.com) for guidelines including resources from the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

### Quick Activities

If you have extra time during, before or after your Take a Veteran to School events, below are some easy activities to engage students. Many more activities are available at [www.veterans.com](http://www.veterans.com).

1. If you have Internet access, log on to [www.veterans.com](http://www.veterans.com). Here, you can print out copies of the curriculum guides and participation passports for students. On the last page of the curriculum guides, you will find "stars" to decorate and give to the visiting veterans. This is a particularly good activity for elementary school students.
2. Some veterans are not able to visit schools either because they are very busy or because they have health issues. Ask students to write letters to veterans they may know or who may be in hospitals or VA facilities. These letters can be messages of thanks and can include information about what students learned about the meaning of service.
3. Ask students to make a chart of the branches of the military on the classroom board and discuss the role of the armed forces in relation to other branches of the government.

### Thank a Vet

Visit us online at [History.com/thank-a-vet](http://History.com/thank-a-vet) to join our Twitter campaign and find great videos related to Veteran's Day.





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### Suggested Questions and Tips for Veterans

1. When did you join the service? Why did you join?
2. What branch of the service did you join? What are the primary roles of that branch?
3. What was your basic training like?
4. Where did you serve after training?
5. What were your primary tasks and responsibilities?
6. What are some of your memorable experiences?
7. How did you stay in touch with your family while you were in the service?
8. What was the food like?
9. Did you do anything special for good luck?
10. Did you form any close friendships, and do you still stay in touch?
11. Do you remember any humorous or unusual events?
12. What does service mean to you?
13. Did you serve overseas? Were you in Iraq or Afghanistan? If so, what were your most memorable experiences from serving there?
14. If you did serve in Iraq or Afghanistan, how did that experience affect or change you?