



## LESSON PLAN

# Military Life

Topic: **Military Life/Deployments** | Grade Level: **Elementary (1<sup>st</sup>–4<sup>th</sup>)**  
Subject: **Language Arts** | Time: **25 minutes**

### OBJECTIVE(S):

Students in a non-military community will learn about military life and the sacrifices involved by watching a short video about a military family's deployment experience. This lesson can be tied to a major national holiday, such as Veterans Day.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- The "Colorful Countdown" or "Big Sis" video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website (See Tips)
- Worksheet
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links:  
[www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/elem](http://www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/elem)

### OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access

## LESSON

### Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (8 minutes)

- Teacher sets up the video:
  - Mention upcoming Veterans Day holiday and ask students what they know about it.
  - Define deployment: Deployment means a service member has to be relocated for his or her job. During times of war, service members might be deployed in areas of conflict.
  - Tell students they are going to watch a short video about one military family experiencing a deployment.
  - Cue the selected video.

### Class Discussion (5 minutes)

- Teacher-led discussion:
  - What did students think about the video?
  - Does anybody know someone in the military?
  - What did you learn about military life and military families?

### Small-Group Discussion (6 minutes)

- Students break into small groups.
- Teacher asks small groups to discuss these questions:
  - Imagine you have a friend going through a parent's deployment or some other big change. What could you do to help your friend?
  - If *you* were going through a big change, what kind of support would you find helpful?

### Worksheet Activity (6 minutes)

- Teacher:
  - Distributes Worksheets
  - Instructs students to use the Worksheet to draw a picture of one way they can show people in the military and their families that their sacrifices are appreciated. Students can write a sentence about their idea. If time allows, students may share their Worksheet with the class.

### Tips

- Choose the video that works best for your students. Review both videos prior to the lesson plan.
  - The "Big Sis" video is about a boy who relies on his older sister for support while their dad is in Afghanistan. It runs 3:12.
  - The "Colorful Countdown" is another video that works well for this lesson plan. It is about how two young brothers tick off the days until their dad's return. It runs 3:11.

From [www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org](http://www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org) – A Department of Defense website for military youth coping with deployment.

**WORKSHEET**  
**Military Life**

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

It's almost Veterans Day. Can you think of a way our class could show people in the military and their families that we appreciate their sacrifice? Draw a picture of your idea and write a sentence about it.



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