

# Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery | Lesson Plan



What is the history and significance of the Arlington National Cemetery?

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Students will understand the historical significance of the Arlington National Cemetery and the importance of remembering and honoring our veterans through *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery*.

## Learning Objectives:

- Identify the main characters and setting in *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery*.
- Recognize the sequence of events in the story.
- Understand the historical significance of Arlington National Cemetery.
- Discuss and understand the sacrifice and bravery of our veterans.
- Identify key vocabulary related to *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery*.

## Key Vocabulary:

- **Memorial Day:** A national holiday celebrated in the United States last Monday in May. Those who have served and died in the U.S. armed forces are honored and mourned on this day.
- **Arlington National Cemetery:** One of two national cemeteries run by the United States Army, which is located in Arlington, Virginia. The property is over 600 acres and is the final resting place of around 400,000 people.
- **Section 27:** One of the oldest sections in Arlington National Cemetery dates back to around 1864 when the U.S. Army first began conducting burials there.
- **Private William Henry Christman:** The first soldier buried at Arlington National Cemetery. William served in the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment and unfortunately died from illness on May 11, 1864.
- **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier:** A monument at Arlington National Cemetery dedicated to all the unidentified U.S. soldiers who have died during war.
- **Sacrifice:** To give up something valuable or important to you for the sake of helping someone else.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.R.7

**Academic Subject Areas:** America, History, U.S. Holidays

## What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery* (Click [Here](#))

Scan to watch episode:



- Image of Arlington National Cemetery

## **Lesson Plan (45 mins.)**

### Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by showing students an image of Arlington National Cemetery.
2. Ask students if they know what a cemetery is and if they have ever visited one. Explain that Arlington National Cemetery is a special place where brave men and women who served in the United States military are buried.
3. Use their responses to introduce the topic of *Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery* for the *Otto's Tales* Video.

### Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery* to the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. Encourage students to identify the main characters and the setting and to think about what Dennis, Otto, and Smidge learned about honoring our veterans.
4. Discuss why it is important to honor and remember those who served in the military, focusing on key concepts like honor, respect, and remembrance.

### Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students to color the *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit Arlington National Cemetery* Coloring Page.
2. Assess comprehension and encourage storytelling skills by asking students to retell the story in their own words. Use guiding questions that assess recall and understanding of the story's themes, such as the historical significance of the Arlington National Cemetery.
3. Ask students to share one thing they will remember about Arlington National Cemetery and why it is important to honor veterans.

## **Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)**

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.