

Today Is Veterans Day | Lesson Plan

Why is it important to honor our veterans?

In *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day*, students will learn the importance of honoring the meaningful sacrifices made by our military veterans.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn the importance of honoring the meaningful sacrifices made by our military veterans.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different branches of the military.
- Identify the main characters and setting in *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day*.
- Identify key vocabulary related to *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day*.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Veteran:** A person who has served in the military, especially during times of war.
- **Military:** Relating to the armed forces of a country, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, and National Guard. They are trained to protect and defend their country.
- **Sacrifice:** Giving up something valuable or important, often for the sake of others or a greater cause.
- **Gratitude:** Feeling thankful and appreciative for something that someone has done for you.
- **Remembrance:** The act of honoring or remembering someone or something, often through ceremonies or memorials.
- **Service:** The act of serving one's country or community, often through military duty or other forms of public service.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.3, CCRA.W.9

Academic Subject Areas: America, U.S. Holidays, Military

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day* (Click [Here](#))
- Book: *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day* (Click [Here](#))
- Paper and art supplies
- Optional [Craftory Military Appreciation Wreath](#)

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

Scan to watch episode:



1. Ask students if they know someone in their family, community, or neighborhood who has served in the military.
 - "Do you have a parent, grandparent, or family friend who is a veteran?"
 - If comfortable, allow a few students to briefly share their connection (e.g., "My uncle was in the Navy" or "My neighbor is in the Army.").
 - Emphasize that many people have served in the military to help keep us safe and protect our freedoms.
2. Show students an image of a veteran in uniform or a Veterans Day ceremony (e.g., a flag-raising or a parade). Ask:
 - "What do you see in this picture?"
 - "How might this person or event connect to Veterans Day?"
3. Briefly explain that veterans come from different branches of the U.S. military, each with a special role, and share a simple fact about each branch (like their uniforms or vehicles):
 - Army: Protects and defends on land.
 - Navy: Secures the seas and waterways.
 - Air Force: Guards the skies with powerful jets.
 - Marines: Responds quickly on both land and sea for special missions.
 - Coast Guard: Protects U.S. shores and performs rescues.
 - Space Force: Safeguards technology and satellites in space.
4. Explain: "Today, we'll take an adventure with Otto to learn about these branches, the sacrifices veterans make, and why we honor them on Veterans Day. Listen carefully to learn how each branch helps keep us safe."

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day* to the students.
2. Engage the students in a discussion about the sacrifices made by veterans. Ask questions such as: What do the different branches of the military do? How do they protect us and help to keep us free?
3. Provide each student with a piece of paper. Ask the students to draw a picture of a veteran or something that represents Veterans Day. Encourage creativity and imagination.
7. After they finish drawing, have the students share their artwork with the class. Encourage them to explain their drawings and why they chose to depict certain things. Hang the artwork around the classroom to create a display honoring veterans.
8. *Optional craft:* [Craftory Military Appreciation Wreath](#)

Wrap-Up: (20 mins.)

1. Distribute individual copies of the "Today Is Veterans Day Worksheet" and guide students through the following instructions:
 - In the **Calendar Area**, have students write the name of the month ("November"), fill in the calendar by writing the numbers starting from the correct day of the

week, and highlight Veterans Day (November 11) with a star or special color, noting that November has 30 days.

- Ask students to draw a picture related to Veterans Day, such as a U.S. flag, a soldier in uniform, a family member who served in the armed services, or a patriotic symbol like an eagle or stars.
 - In the **Month Section**, direct students to read aloud or sing the months of the year song. Then, have them color in the correct month.
 - In the **Seasons Section**, ask students to read aloud the four seasons, then color the appropriate season.
 - In the **Weather Section**, instruct students to circle or color the character that correctly displays today's weather.
 - In the **Telling Time Section**, guide students to write the current time in both analog and digital formats.
 - In the **Temperature Section**, have students color today's temperature.
2. Conclude the lesson by revisiting the key concepts discussed. Reinforce the significance of Thanksgiving by asking students to share one thing they learned about why Thanksgiving is celebrated.

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

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page *Otto's Tales: Today Is Veterans Day* and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.