



PATRIOTISM

May's Key to Character

Definitions

Elementary: devoted **love**, support, and defense of one's country

Secondary: national loyalty and responsible citizenship

Related Words

loyalty	respect	community	military
public	nation	duty	constitution



"I'm proud to be an American,
Where at least I know I'm free.

I won't forget the men who died,
Who gave that right to me.

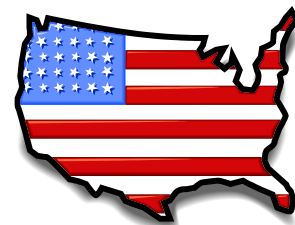
I'll proudly stand up next to him
to defend her still today,

Cuz there ain't no doubt I love
this land.

God bless the USA"

From the song "Proud to be an American"

by Lee Greenwood



How Can I Show Patriotism?

Draw a line from the circle to actions that show patriotism.

Vote

Volunteer

Obey the law

Fly the flag

Patriotism

Respect elected officials

Pay taxes

Send cards or
gifts to our troops

Voice an opinion

Encourage other
citizens

Serve on jury duty

Know about current events



Pledge the flag

What other
actions can
you add?

"Then join hand in hand, brave American's all. By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall."

John Dickinson



suggested Reading List



Elementary:

The Romeo and Juliet Code by Phoebe Stone— Felicity encounters interesting adventures when sent to live with her uncle and aunt in Maine during WWII. A great book to explain the evacuation of British children from their homeland.

The Ghost at Camp David by Ron Roy— When strange things start happening on Eisenhower's birthday at Camp David, KC and Marshall rethink the stories they heard about a ghost that haunts Camp David on each former President's birthday.

Lily's Victory Garden by Helen Wilber. When Lily convinces the Bishop's to allow her to use some of their land for a Victory Garden their private pain due to the loss of their son in WWII begins to heal.

Best Friends Forever: A World War II Scrapbook by Beverly Patt. This is a personal story of two girls from April 1942 until January 1943.

Heart of a Shepherd by Rosanne Perry. Brother is only 11 years old when his single father is deployed to Iraq and he is left on the family farm to assist his grandparents.

Fireworks, Picnics and Flags by James Griblin. This book looks at the social history behind the celebration of Independence Day and examines the background of such national symbols as Uncle Sam, the Bald Eagle, the Liberty Bell and the Flag.

Secondary:

The Iraq War: A Controversial War in Perspective by Mara Miller.

Along with the political, military and cultural events that make the war so complex this book shows how going to war affects society.

D-Day: the Allies Strike Back During WWII by Terry Miller. Personal stories and quotes allow young readers to realize what it would be like to participate in the D-Day invasion.

A Million Thanks by Shauna Fleming (age 15) - Reviews Shauna's campaign to send one million letters to our troops.

Battle Dress by Effaw—Andi, a female freshman at West Point Military Academy, learns what it means to be a part of military cadet training.

Teen Rights and Responsibilities by Traci Truly—A 42 chapter guide to laws that apply to teenagers.

Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley and Ron Powers. As this book shares the experiences of James Bradley's father and the Battle of Iwo Jima it helps a student understand the sacrifices made in WWII.



Websites

<http://www.field-trips.org/ss/america/index.htm> - Virtual field trip "My America"

<http://www.field-trips.org/ss/prez> - Virtual field trip— "The American Presidency"

<http://www.abcteach.com/USA/usatoc.htm>— USA Activities for kids

<http://www.libertybellmuseum.com/> - The Liberty Bell Virtual Museum

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/whtour/> - Historical Tour of the White House

<http://www.usmemorialday.org/> - Memorial Day

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/k-2/symbols/index.html> - Symbols of U.S. government K-2

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/index.html> - Symbols of U.S. government 3-5

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/> Today in History—Great class starters

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/gamesleuth_win.php—Fun and educational online games

<http://www.usa-patriotism.com/stories/index.htm>—real and fictional stories about soldiers and patriots



Patriotism Lesson Plans and Activities

Language Arts: What Freedom Means: Many wars are fought to bring or maintain freedom. Have students look up the word "freedom" in a dictionary and a thesaurus. Hold a class discussion on whether the definitions fully explain the meaning of freedom, then have students write an opinion essay on what freedom means to them.

Poems That Honor - Have students explore the meaning of Memorial Day through poetry. [Creating a Memorial Day Poster Poem](http://www.eduplace.com/activity/memorial.html) <http://www.eduplace.com/activity/memorial.html>

Science: War Stories: An effective way to link the present to the past is to have students interview an adult—such as a teacher, a parent, or another adult—who served in a war or lived during a war. Students can ask the adult to compare the scientific technology that was available to soldiers when they served to that available to soldiers today.

Social Science: Memorial Day E-Cards: A Memorial Day e-card is a thoughtful way for students to express their observance of this national holiday. Students can choose from historic motifs and poems: [Memorial Day E-Cards](http://www.abcard.net/home/english/USMemorialDayCards.html) <http://www.abcard.net/home/english/USMemorialDayCards.html>

Color the Flags: Have students color and compare the United States flag as it looked in 1777 and as it looks today. [The Flag of the U.S.A.](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/julyfourth/Flag.shtml) <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/julyfourth/Flag.shtml>

Math: Memorial Day Parade: Many communities hold a traditional Memorial Day parade with floats and marching bands. Students can make their own floats for a classroom parade. Have each student bring in a small cardboard box (such as a shoe box) to use as the base of the float. Provide crayons or markers and an assortment of red, white, and blue paper and other decorations. Make it a math activity by requiring students to measure the dimensions of the float, compute the square footage, or make it in special shapes, etc. according to their ability level.

Music: Final Farewell: Military funerals conclude with the playing of "Taps." The simple but moving 24-note bugle call is also the Army's regular call at day's end. Have students learn the history of "Taps," read the unofficial words, and listen to the call. ["Taps" Information](http://www.usmemorialday.org/taps.htm) <http://www.usmemorialday.org/taps.htm>

Art: Memorial Stamps: Have students create a postage stamp to honor a war hero. Students can draw or paste an image of the hero on the stamp. Students can then write important facts and dates about the hero on the back of the stamp. [Large Stamp Outline](http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/pdf/stamplg.pdf) (PDF file) <http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/pdf/stamplg.pdf> [Small Stamp Outlines](http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/pdf/stampsm.pdf) (PDF file) <http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/pdf/stampsm.pdf>

(source: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt—Education Place)

Support our Soldiers Activity for any subject!

Access these websites for tips, ideas, sample letters, etc. to help students write letters and/or send packages to our soldiers:

- <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/hero.support.letter.pdf>
- <http://www.anysoldier.com/>
- <http://www.amillionthanks.org/>
- <http://www.adoptaussoldier.org/>



FCAT Writes

1. Johann W. von Goethe said, "To rule is easy, to govern difficult." Write a paragraph to describe what you feel he meant by that statement.
2. Think about why it is important to protect the environment. Write to convince a friend that he/she should begin to recycle paper and plastics at their home.
3. Think about the responsibility of the President of the United States as Commander in Chief of all armed services and nuclear power. If you were president, when would you feel it justified to declare war? Write a speech to the American citizens to explain your reasons for a declaration of war.
4. Many people feel that every citizen should show their patriotism by serving at least two years in the military after high school. Do you agree? Write a letter to convince your Senator to support or not support a proposed law that would require mandatory military service.
5. The internet is making communication much easier as we share ideas, work on community problems and support candidates for election; however, it can be misused. Write a letter to a younger student to explain the precautions they should take when using the internet.



Spotlight on Schools

Palmetto Patriots

More than 800 students at Palmetto Elementary had an opportunity to practice patriotism and show that they care for the Earth in an Earth Day activity on April 22. Here you see some of them planting a Royal Poinciana tree (known as "flamboyan" in Spanish) chosen because it has the same name as their community. Home Depot and Poinciana Residents for Smart Change were key sponsors for the event. One way to show our patriotism is to take pride in our community and contribute to its success. Students were able to learn these skills as they also learned about the importance of conserving our natural resources

Palmetto plans to have a similar environmental project related to Earth Day and Arbor Day each year. Millie Campbell, a first grade teacher at Palmetto, said, "The projects will help students develop pride in the Poinciana area and hopefully our students will take an interest and excel in gardening, horticulture and landscaping." Thanks Palmetto for giving your students this opportunity!



Parent Power



Abraham Lincoln said, "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." What a reminder of our responsibility not only to be active citizens ourselves, but to be a role model that teaches our children love of country and the duties of citizenship. To reinforce what is taught in the classroom families must live in a way that shows appreciation and protection of the freedoms our nation was founded upon. The character taught to our children will mold the values and principles of our nation in the future. To teach our children to love our country and be responsible to it we can:

- Read the newspaper and internet sites together and discuss local and national news. Talk about current events and our political ideas with our children at their level of understanding.
- Involve our children in our thinking and researching process as we prepare to vote during elections. We can take them to the voting booth with us to observe the process. For the first time, a small local election rather than a presidential election will allow more time for observation.
- Create an appreciation of our nation's heritage and history by planning patriotic vacations. Students will forever study the Civil War differently after seeing a Civil War reenactment or touring a plantation. Walking through a WWII plane into an English village or hearing the speeches of our first patriots who were ready to give their life and property for our freedom will help them to study history and government with renewed interest and create new respect for those who sacrificed for the liberty that they enjoy.
- Attend city commission meetings together. Make sure to let them know who their local elected officials are and the different roles of city, county and state government.
- Attend Memorial Day or Veterans Day celebrations. If there are none scheduled in your community, look elsewhere to find one or contact the VFW or American Legion for support in creating one.
- Decorate the house and plan special meals and family activities around patriotic holidays. Involve your children with the planning.
- Listen to patriotic music in your home. Learn the words together and sing along.
- Fly a flag and discuss the symbolism of the colors, stripes and stars. Teach your children proper flag etiquette.
- Discuss what it means to be free and the restrictions that children in other countries have.
- Watch PBS, Discovery Channel and/or History Channel with your children and create small history lessons from time to time to develop an appreciation of our heritage.
- Encourage your children to talk to grandparents, aunts and uncles about events they lived through when they were small.

Most important reinforce that WE are the people that make democracy work!



Belling the Cat

An Aesop Fable retold by Rose Owens

There was once a very vicious cat. He caught mice after mice and ate them. Something had to be done! So the mice decided to have a meeting. Many plans were suggested and rejected. At last a very young mouse began to talk. "My plan," he said, "is to put a bell on the cat. If she has a bell around her neck, we will be able to hear her before she gets close enough to catch us."

It was a wonderful plan and all the mice voted to accept the plan. The mice cheered and were excited that the cat problem would now be solved.

A very old mouse, who had been silent until now, spoke, "It is a wonderful plan," he said, "a most clever idea and will no doubt be quite successful. But what I want to know is who will put the bell on the cat?"

It is one thing to say that something should be done, but quite a different matter to do it.

As patriotic citizens we each have to be problem solvers !



Bulletin Board Ideas

- **Title: Famous Words**—Create a bulletin board of famous quotations about war and peace. Have each student choose a quote and rewrite it in his or her own words. Post the original quote alongside the student's paraphrase on a bulletin board with a red, white and blue background. (source—Houghton Mifflin Harcourt—Education Place)
- **Title: Heroes**—Cover the background of the bulletin board with blue paper with a red (or flag) border. Study famous heroes, or allow students to identify family soldiers who are our current heroes that are fighting to protect us. Individually (or in small groups) have students write a short 1/2 page biographical essay of the person's contributions. Paste or tape the essay in the center of a red sheet of construction paper to be placed in the center of a large white star. Attach the stars in rows similar to the order of the stars in the blue field of the flag.
- **Title: This Land Is My Land**—Place a map of the U.S. in the center of the bulletin board with the title above it. Around the map, Have students cut out (or bring from home) pictures of something that shows how we can protect our environment (water, trash, endangered species, etc.) and place the pictures around the sides of the map. At the bottom of the board, write "Protect It."

Sunshine State Standards

Pre-K-2

HE.A.1.1 - The student comprehends concepts related to health promotion.

HE.B.1.1 - The student knows health-enhancing behaviors and how to reduce health risks.

HE.B.3.1 - The student knows how to use effective interpersonal communication skills that enhance health.

Grades 3-5

HE.B.1.2 - The student knows health-enhancing behaviors.

HE.B.3.2 - The student analyzes the influence of culture, media, technology and other factors on health.

Grades 6-9

HE.A.1.3 - The student comprehends concepts related to health promotion.

HE.A.2.3 - The student knows how to access valid health information and health-promoting products and services.

HE.B.3.3 - The student knows how to use effective interpersonal skills that enhance health.

Grades 9-12

HE.B.1.4 - The student knows health enhancing behaviors and how to reduce health risks.

HE.B.2.4 - The student analyzes the influence of culture, media technology, and other factors on health.

HE.B.3.4 - The student knows how to use effective communication skills that enhance health.

Patriotism Quotes

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

~John Quincy Adams

"We can't all be Washingtons, but we can all be patriots." ~Charles F. Browne

"It is easy to take liberty for granted when it has never been taken from you."

~ Dick Cheney

"They that can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty or safety." ~Benjamin Franklin

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." ~ Robert F. Kennedy

"What we need are critical lovers of America—patriots who express their faith in their country by working to improve it."

~ Hubert H. Humphrey

"If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace." ~Hamilton Fish

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." ~John F. Kennedy

"True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else." ~ Clarence Darrow

"We cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home."

~Edward R. Murrow

"Posterity: You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it." ~John Quincy Adams

"We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it."

~William Faulkner

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."
~Elmer Davis

"If you take advantage of everything America has to offer, there's nothing you can't accomplish." ~Geraldine Ferraro

"America is a tune. It must be sung together."

~Gerald Stanley Lee

"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why.....I dream of things that never were, and ask, why not." ~Robert F. Kennedy

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

~Martin Luther King

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

~Martin Luther King

"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation."

~Douglas MacArthur

"Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom." ~George S. Patton

The Flag of Our Country By Charles Sumner

Biography: Charles Sumner (1811—1874) was an American statesman and orator born in Boston, Massachusetts. He became a U.S. Senator in 1851. The "Flag of Our Country" is taken from a speech delivered in 1867 at Cooper Institute, New York.

"There is the national flag. He must be cold indeed who can look upon its folds, rippling in the breeze, without pride of country. If he be in a foreign land, the flag is companionship and country itself, with all its endearments. Its highest beauty is in what it symbolizes. It is because it represents all, that gaze at it with delight and reverence.

It is a piece of bunting lifted in the air, but it speaks sublimely, and every part has a voice. Its stripes of alternate red and white proclaim the original union of thirteen states to maintain the Declaration of Independence. Its stars of white on a field of blue proclaim that union of states constituting our national constellation, which receives a new star with every new state. The two together signify union past and present. The very colors have a language which was officially recognized by our fathers. White is for purity, red for valor, blue for justice; and all together, bunting, stripes, stars and colors blazing in the sky, make the flag of our country to be cherished by all our hearts to be upheld by all our hands.

Discussion Questions:

1. Each paragraph has a separate message. Does the first paragraph fit only America, or could someone from another country say the same thing about his/her national flag? What does the flag really represent to someone?
2. What facts peculiar to America does the second paragraph say?
3. How many stars were in the first American flag? How many does it have now?
4. What is meant by "union, past and present?"
5. "White is for purity" - in what way does this express the ideals of the founders of our country?
6. Do you know the rules for proper display of the flag, for raising and lowering the flag, and disposal?
7. Define the following terms used: rippling, reverence, bunting, proclaim, original, maintain, constituting, valor, cherished, constellation.

Source: Apples for the Teacher—<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/flag-day/short-stories/the-flag-of-our-country.html>



Teacher's Corner



For many students, Memorial Day merely marks the beginning of summer fun. This year, introduce them to the true meaning of the holiday, and provide them with a glimpse into the lives of the men and women it honors (included: An Internet Treasure Hunt plus Web-based activities for learning about and celebrating Memorial Day). To help your students celebrate Memorial Day with a deeper understanding of its history and importance, you might begin by sharing these lines, from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, about soldiers who died in battle:

*"Your silent tents of green,
We deck with fragrant flowers;
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours."*

Invite students to discuss the meaning of the poem and why it is important to remember the men and women who have died fighting for our country. After talking about that, you might then introduce the Memorial Day Internet Treasure Hunt that follows. Teachers of younger students can easily use the Web sites and adapt the questions that follow. The class activities that accompany this hunt can be adapted for use with students of all ages. Some make excellent activities for independent or small group exploration; others will make valuable whole-class activities.

A MEMORIAL DAY INTERNET TREASURE HUNT

Challenge students to use the Web resources listed below to learn more about the history of Memorial Day.

Web resource: [Memorial Day](http://wilstar.com/holidays/memday.htm) at <http://wilstar.com/holidays/memday.htm> When and why do we celebrate Memorial Day?

Web resource: [Seneca County Memorial Day](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyseneca/memorial.htm) at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyseneca/memorial.htm>
By what name was Memorial Day known when the first Memorial Day Order (General Order No. 11) was issued?

Web resource: [Flag Folding](http://www.usflag.org/fold.flag.html) at <http://www.usflag.org/fold.flag.html>
When the U.S. flag is properly folded, what shape is it?

Web resource: [Americans Killed in Action](http://www.americanwarlibrary.com/allwars.htm) at <http://www.americanwarlibrary.com/allwars.htm>
In which war was the greatest number of American soldiers killed?

Web resource: [Weldon McCoy Barr](http://www.sheilascorner.com/war/dads.html) at <http://www.sheilascorner.com/war/dads.html>
On what date did Sergeant Weldon McCoy Barr record in his diary the signing of the armistice that ended WWI?

DIRECTIONS: Answer Key

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday in May, is the day on which we honor all those members of the armed forces who have died in service to their country. It is also a time to remember the ideals for which they died.

- 1. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan issued General Order No. 11 designating Decoration Day, later called Memorial Day, as a day to honor "comrades who died in defense of their country."*
- 2. The flag is folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat (triangle), the kind of hat worn by colonial soldiers during the American Revolution.*
- 3. In the American Civil War, 562,130 were killed.*
- 4. Weldon Barr recorded the following in his diary: "November 11, 1918: The Armistice was signed at 5 A.M." Today, this date is celebrated in many places as Veterans Day.*
- 5. There are almost 2 million women veterans. Women have served in some way in every conflict from the American Revolution to Operation Allied Force around Kosovo.*
- 6. Maya Lin, at the time a Yale architectural student, designed "The Wall," the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.*
- 7. According to St. Augustine, "The purpose of all war is peace."*

Source: © 1999 by Education World®. Permission is granted to teachers to reproduce this skill page for classroom use.