

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. After reading through this website, call the State Guard for a Guard member or veteran to speak to your class. Availability of a speaker will vary; however, with some adjustments, a speaker should be able to make a 30-minute presentation with a 15-minute discussion. The presentation will cover the Medal of Honor and associated topics.
2. Have students present a short report about a Medal of Honor recipient and discuss the common elements of gallantry that led to each award.
3. Organize into two groups and let each group ask questions about the Medal of Honor. Have a small third group act as referees with reference material available to check for the correct answer.
 - Has a woman received the Medal of Honor, and if so, who was she?
 - How many Coast Guardsmen have received the Medal of Honor?
 - How many double recipients are there?
 - Who are the father and son combination recipients?
 - Who was the first African-American recipient? And in which war did he participate?
 - What are the benefits provided by the U.S. Government to Medal of Honor recipients?
 - What are the current guidelines for the award The Medal of Honor?
 - How many Medals of Honor were awarded in the recent Granada, Panama, Haiti, Kosovo, Bosnia, and Gulf War operations?
 - In what conflict were the last Medals awarded, and who received them?
 - How many recipients are living today?
 - How many recipients have been recognized as receiving the Medal of Honor?
 - Who was the first recipient?
 - Who was the youngest recipient?
 - How many living recipients claim South Carolina as their home? Name them.
 - What is the Congressional Medal of Honor Society?
4. Have students read a book or watch a movie about a Medal of Honor recipient and then have that students tell or write what the recipient did to receive the Medal of Honor and how he felt about receiving it.
5. Conduct a classroom discussion about what the Medal of Honor means. Does it stand for any values or character traits?
6. Conduct a discussion about bravery in everyday life. Who are our everyday heroes? Besides a soldier, can non-military people also be brave? Are there any medals for brave citizens?

7. Visit the Yorktown Carrier at Patriots' Point in Charleston and the home of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Museum.
8. Create a poster with the picture of a Medal of Honor recipient and a brief statement of their gallantry. Post these in the classroom and around the school.
9. Discuss the change in Medal of Honor designs and the symbolism of the Medals. Encourage students to design their own version of the Medal of Honor and be able to explain the symbolisms.
10. Discuss the history of Medal of Honor and the changing criteria for its award.
11. Discuss the future of the Medal of Honor, especially in light of modern warfare technology and the "video" battlefield.
12. What are American values? Does the Medal of Honor reflect these values?
13. Discuss the peacetime Medals of Honor. Name several recipients of the Medal in non-combat situations.
14. Watch PBS's "American Valor" film on ETV and discuss the students' thoughts and feelings about the film.
15. Have students discuss their personal heroes and why these people are their heroes.
16. Can students become heroes? Discuss civic actions, volunteerism, public service, helping family and others.
17. Design a "Wall of Heroes" in the media center with pictures and descriptions of the local heroes.
18. Compare and contrast the Medal of Honor and the Nobel Peace Prize.
19. Write a monologue in the voice of an unknown soldier in a famous US battle.
20. Discuss freedom. How do we keep America free? What is the role of the citizen, of the soldier?
21. What impact does combat have on soldiers?
22. Write or memorize a poem about bravery, freedom, being a soldier, America.
23. Discuss "Saving the Flag" and its meaning during the Civil War.

24. Discuss the origin and meaning of the following quotations:

- In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
- This uniform ain't for sale.
- I would rather have that Medal than to be President of the United States.
- I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.
- Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door.
- I was born on June 14, 1777, in Philadelphia. ...My colors symbolize the patriotic ideas and spirited qualities of the citizens of my country. ...I represent these eternal principles: liberty, justice and humanity. ...I am as old as my nation.
- Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings...Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.
- That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.
- The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier s wards were treated and appreciated by their nation.
- Here rests in honored glory, an American soldier known but to God.
- We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hollow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, for above our poor power to add or to detract.
- Compared to war, all other forms of human endeavor shrink to insignificance.
- It is well that war is too terrible, or we should grow too fond of it.
- Over there, Over there
Send the word; send the word, over there.
That the yanks are coming, the yanks are coming
And we won't be back until it's over, over there.

- I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.
 - Freedom is the deepest and noblest aspiration of the human spirit.
 - Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well; safely rest
God is nigh.
25. Students may create a citation to his or her hero. A computer generated or paper poster should include the individual's picture, a written tribute citing the brave acts with pictures of actual medals awarded or other symbols of patriotism or valor and entitled "My Hero."
26. Honor a Medal of Honor living recipient. Write a letter of appreciation or send a birthday card. Remember it must be sent to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society as a matter of courtesy to protect their privacy. Go to www.cmoHS.org.
27. Adopt a Medal of Honor recipient from your home state of South Carolina. Again, go through the CMOHS first. Create a "Citizenship Award" in the recipient's name, maintain communication if your adoption is accepted with holiday cards, birthday cards visits. Create a scrapbook of letters, photos and news clippings. Remember there are only three living recipients in South Carolina and they may be "adopted" by several schools.



MEDAL OF HONOR RESOURCES

WEBSITES:

- Start all research with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society website. This is the "official" site for the Medal of Honor. www.cmoohs.org .
- The most entertaining and comprehensive web site for a variety of Medal of Honor topics has been created by Douglas Sterner. It is brimming with stories, facts, charts, things to do and it is appropriate for children and adults. www.homeofheroes.com .
- Especially for teachers and students, go to the Public Broadcasting Service web site, "American Valor." This site has several excellent lesson plans for civics and history teachers. www.pbs.org/weta/americanvalor/ .
- To know more about Lieutenant Audie Murphy, visit the Audie L. Murphy Memorial website. www.audiemurphy.com .
- Go to the website of the Theodore Roosevelt Association to learn more about this fantastic and unique President. www.theodoreroosevelt.org/life/medalofhonor.htm .
- More information can be found about SGT Alvin York at the York Patriotic Foundation's site. www.alvincyork.org .
- To discover more about the controversial Civil War doctor, Mary Walker, search this website.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Edwards_Walker
- The Army Center of Military History has a full-text listing of all the Medal of Honor citations. www.army.mil/cmh-pg/
- Try various search engines. The author of this website used "Google." Just type in "Medal of Honor" and a large list of sites will appear. www.google.com .

BOOKS:

- Smith, Larry; Schwarzkopf, Norman and Adams, Eddie, Beyond Glory: Medal of Honor Heroes in Their Own Voices, W.W. Norton and Company, July 2003.

- Casalini, Tom and Wallis, Timothy, Ordinary Heroes, Sweet Pea Press, 2000.
- Editors and Writers, Above and Beyond, Boston Publishing Company, 1985.
- Mikaelian, Allen and Wallace, Mike, Medal of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present, Hyperion Press, May 2002.
- Durant, Michael J., In the Company of Heroes, Putnam Publishing Group, May 2003.
- Collier, Peter and Calzo, Nick, Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty, Artisan Publishers, October 2003.
- Proft, R.J., United States of America's Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients: and Their Official Citations, Highland House II, 3rd Ed., October 2000.
- Jordan, Kenneth, Yesterday's Heroes: 433 Men of World War II Awarded the Medal of Honor 1941-1945, Schiffer Aviation History, January 2002.
- Lemon, Peter, Beyond the Medal: A Journey from Their Heart to Yours, Fulgum Publishing, March 1997.

MOVIES:

- "Gettysburg" and "Gods and Generals," two recent films of the Civil War, very realistic.
- "The Civil War," "The World at War," and "Band of Brothers" documentary film mini series.
- "Saving Private Ryan" with Tom Hanks.
- "SGT York" with Gary Cooper.
- "Black Hawk Down," with Josh Hartnett.
- "The Patriot," with Mel Gibson.
- "We Were Soldiers," with Mel Gibson.
- "To Hell and Back," with Audie Murphy.
- "MacArthur," with Gregory Peck.

- “The Lost Battalion,” with Rick Schroeder. See: www.voicenet.com/~lpadilla/mohintro.html .
- “American Valor,” a Public Broadcasting Station documentary video.

