

How do Americans thank veterans?

- 1 Do you know a person who served in the armed forces? Maybe your grandfather was in the army. Maybe a family friend was in the navy. Maybe your neighbor was a marine. Maybe your aunt was in the air force.
- 2 People who served in the armed forces are called veterans. They served the United States in times of war or peace. There are almost 25 million veterans living in this country. November 11 is a special day for them.
- 3 The First World War ended on November 11, 1918. This day became a holiday. It was a time to thank soldiers who fought in the war. In 1954 the holiday changed. It was named Veterans Day. It became a special day for all men and women who were in the armed forces. They risked their lives to keep Americans safe and free. On this day, some towns have parades, and many people display flags. Schools and post offices are closed.
- 4 There is another special day for veterans in May. It is called Memorial Day. On this day, Americans honor military men and women who lost their lives when they served our country.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. November 11, 1918 was the date that _____.
A the Second World War ended
B the First World War ended
C Veterans Day was named
D Memorial Day began

2. Which word in paragraph 4 means “to show respect for”?
A special
B military
C lives
D honor

3. Which paragraph tells the number of veterans living in the United States?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. In 1954 the holiday changed in order to thank _____.
A the families of veterans
B veterans of the First World War
C veterans who died
D all veterans

5. The article does not say, but you can decide that Veterans Day is the time to honor _____.
A veterans who are still living
B veterans who died
C America’s leaders
D new soldiers

 6. What is one thing you could do to thank American veterans on Veterans Day? Tell why this would be a good thing to do.

What are lantern fish?

- 1 Lantern fish are fish that carry their own lights. You must dive deep into the ocean to find them. As you go deeper and deeper, the daylight grows dimmer and dimmer. At 500 feet below the surface, the daylight is almost gone. The water is dark blue. That's where you will find lantern fish.
- 2 There are over 230 different kinds of lantern fish. Most are only about as long as your fingers. Even the biggest are no more than six inches long. Yet each lantern fish has as many as 100 small round lights underneath its body. Each kind of lantern fish has its lights placed in a different way. The fish use their lights to signal one another and to help them catch food.
- 3 Most lantern fish are brown on top and silver underneath. They have very large eyes. Lantern fish eat smaller sea animals like shrimp and sea butterflies. At night they may swim up near the surface of the ocean. Their lights shine like stars under the water. Lantern fish are one of the wonders of the sea.

How did stories about mermaids start?

- 1 A mermaid is a beautiful woman with the tail of a fish. Long ago, lonely men at sea told stories about seeing mermaids. But what they probably saw was a sea cow, or manatee.
- 2 A manatee might look like a mermaid from far away. It has short front legs shaped like paddles. They might be mistaken for arms. A mother manatee holds her baby in these "arms."
- 3 You certainly wouldn't mistake a manatee for a mermaid after a closer look. It's hard to call this sea animal beautiful. It has a square face and gray skin. Short hairs stick out here and there. The manatee's huge body ends in a rounded tail. It can be more than 13 feet long and weigh up to 3,500 pounds.
- 4 Some old stories say that mermaids are harmful. But manatees hurt no animal or person. They just eat plants. When they eat, you can hear the noise 200 yards away. Because manatees are both friendly and slow, they are easy to catch. Some are killed for their meat, oil, and skin. Others are run over by boats. If manatees aren't better protected, they may soon be found only in stories, just like mermaids.

How does an earthworm dig tunnels?

1 An earthworm has no feet or claws. Its body is small and soft. How does an earthworm dig tunnels?

2 Every earthworm has tiny hairs on the bottom of its body. These hairs help the worm move along the ground. If the soil is loose, the earthworm just pushes it to one side to make a tunnel.

3 Most of the time, though, the earthworm makes its tunnels by eating. It uses its mouth to take bits of soil into its body. There are tiny pieces of plant leaves and stems in the soil. The earthworm uses them for food. It pushes the rest of the soil out of its body in wiggly shapes called castings. Worm castings make good food for growing plants.

4 Earthworms dig winding tunnels 12 to 18 inches deep in the earth. Each tiny tunnel lets rain and air reach the roots of growing plants. Without these tunnels, the ground would be dry and hard. The earthworm may not be much to look at. But this tiny earth-moving "machine" is one of a farmer's best friends.