

Introduction to National Cemetery & Burial Information

Grade Level: 4th

Targeted Content: Social Studies

Integrated Content: ELA: Writing

State Content Standard and/or Common Core Standard(s):

Target Standard(s): K-12.H.2 Students will analyze and evaluate the impact of people, events, ideas and symbols upon history using multiple sources.

K-12.H.4 Students will identify and evaluate the causes and effects of past, current and potential events, issues and problems.

Supporting Standard(s): 4.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

4.W.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Lesson Focus: Students will learn about the ways national cemeteries serve the country's veterans and their families, and will discuss eligibility requirements for burial at a national cemetery. They will hear about a number of notable burials at the Black Hills National Cemetery and will identify why each veteran was eligible for interment.

Learning Outcome(s): As a result of this lesson, student will be able to identify candidates for burial at a national cemetery.

Assessment Measures:

Formative Assessment(s): teacher observation, PowerPoint

Summative Assessment(s): N/A

Differentiation: Students who struggle with reading and comprehension can pick 1-3 candidates instead of doing all of them, and students can also work in groups or partners to talk over ideas and reasoning. Students can also be offered a handout with all the veterans' biographies in print. Students will have the option to work in groups or by themselves.

Materials: PowerPoint, pencils, paper

Procedures for Teaching and Learning:

Introduction: Start by asking students if they know anyone who has served in the military. After a brief discussion, ask students if they have been to a national cemetery: a cemetery specifically commemorating soldiers and veterans.

“Today we will be learning about the Black Hills National Cemetery and what qualifies veterans for burial there. National cemeteries are final resting places for brave soldiers and their families who have sacrificed for this country.”

1. Start by using the introduction provided
2. Present the PowerPoint, pausing to ask for questions or need for clarification.
3. Present the “notable burials” slides for the Black Hills National Cemetery.
 - a. At the end of each biography, ask students to write down on a piece of paper why that person was eligible to be buried in a National Cemetery. Students will support their thinking with an explanation including specific reasons using criteria from the National Cemetery Association and from the individual biographies.
4. At the end of the lesson, as students to recall three new things they have learned about national cemeteries, the Black Hills National Cemetery, or any of the veterans discussed.

Closure: National cemeteries are beautiful memorials to the men and women who have served our country. These public spaces are sites of history and memory, providing commemoration for the veteran and a place for the public to pay their respects. National cemeteries are open for visitation from sun up until sun down.