

Name _____



Grateful Nation

Directions: Read the following passage about the history and purpose of Veterans Day. After reading, answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

Understanding the Day

Every year on **November 11**, Americans stop to recognize the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. This federal holiday is known as **Veterans Day**. While some people confuse it with Memorial Day, which honors those who died while serving, Veterans Day is primarily intended to thank **living** veterans for their service and sacrifice.

The timing of the holiday is very specific. It marks the anniversary of the end of **World War I**. Major fighting in that war ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Originally, the day was called Armistice Day. An **armistice** is an agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.

As time passed, the United States fought in other major conflicts, including World War II and the Korean War. A veteran named **Raymond Weeks** believed the holiday should be expanded to honor all veterans, not just those from World War I. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law that officially changed the name to Veterans Day.

Today, the holiday is celebrated with parades, speeches, and a national ceremony at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** in Arlington National Cemetery. It is a day to reflect on the **patriotism** and courage of those who wore the uniform to protect the freedoms of the United States.

1. According to the text, what is the main difference between **Veterans Day** and **Memorial Day**?
2. What does the word **armistice** mean based on the context of the passage?
3. Why was the name of the holiday changed from Armistice Day to **Veterans Day** in 1954?
4. What is the significance of the number **eleven** in the history of this holiday?
5. Based on the passage, what are two ways people **celebrate** or observe Veterans Day today?