



U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum

KINDERGARTEN

Curriculum Guide

NOTE TO TEACHERS:

This curriculum guide is intended to enhance your visit to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum. By incorporating information and experiences available at the museum with the NC standard course of study for kindergartners, your visit here will be made more meaningful for your students. The following questions, observations and exercises reinforce specific competency goals and skill objectives for kindergarten students in the North Carolina Public Schools.

TEACHER PREP:

Before your visit, review the museum schedule, restroom/lunch procedures, and expectations for walking safely with a group. Introduce students to the museum as a place where we learn from real objects, pictures, stories, and helpers. Preview important vocabulary such as museum, volunteer, veteran, community helper, symbol, and responsibility. Prepare students to listen respectfully, ask thoughtful questions, and share only what they feel comfortable sharing. If possible, bring name tags, a class roster, pencils, clipboards, and a simple drawing or reflection sheet for use during or after the visit.

COMPELLING QUESTION:

How do symbols, service, and good citizenship connect us to our community and our country?

Before Your Visit

1. (Students will learn to identify and exhibit qualities of responsible citizenship.)
 - a. Point out to your students the American flag flying in front of the museum.
 - b. Discuss with your students the Pledge of Allegiance and the special commitment soldiers make to their country.
2. (Students will learn to recognize and understand the concept of change in various settings.)
 - a. Ask your students to consider the different environment they will encounter at the museum and discuss how good behavior in a public place can be important. Inform your students of the volunteers who will greet your class and encourage them to display good manners.
3. (Students will learn to identify and exhibit qualities of responsible citizenship.)
 - a. Throughout the museum, mannequins represent real soldiers. Discuss the contribution made by soldiers to their nation and to their local communities. Point out that soldiers often volunteer in local communities in several ways other than defending America's interests around the globe.
 - b. Ask children to identify other examples of community service -- policemen, firemen, emergency medical personnel all perform community service, as do many other people of other professions.
4. (Students will learn to recognize and understand the concept of change in various settings.)

a. Ask the students to observe the different uniforms worn by the soldiers depicted in the museum and explain what changes they saw in them.

b. The museum depicts different geographical settings for various vignettes and artifacts. Ask the children to observe the different backgrounds (desert, jungle, urban areas, etc.) and see how many different settings they can remember.

5. (Students will learn to express basic geographic concepts in real-life situations.)

a. Use a world map to point out to the children where past and current conflicts occur in the world. Reassure children by making clear the great distances between home and the current battlefields of the world.

b. Inform children that Fayetteville is home to Fort Bragg and Pope Army Airfield and that people from those military installations are all over the world, protecting and defending America's interests. By the same token, people from all over the world call Fayetteville home. Ask if any of the children were born in far-away places, or have family in far-away places, and show them that place on the map.

Goals in kindergarten focus on developing positive attitudes about themselves, their families, and families of diverse cultures.

During Your Visit

1. As you walk through the museum, ask children to find the American flag and recall the Pledge of Allegiance discussed before the visit.
2. Encourage children to greet a museum volunteer and say "thank you," connecting back to the discussion of community helpers.
3. Ask children to point to a world map or globe in an exhibit and see if they can find North Carolina.
4. Ask children to notice the different uniforms and settings (desert, jungle, snow) in the displays and point out changes they see.

After Your Visit

1. Ask your students to find a picture or story about soldiers from an outside source and share it with the class.
2. Have the students plan a virtual birthday party for America -- how should July 4 be celebrated? And why?
3. Ask the children to discuss the lives and responsibilities of soldiers -- what is good and fun and what aspects are not so good or fun.
4. Teach the children to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Or ask the children to roleplay a good soldier, at home or in a far-away location.