



LESSON PLAN

Holding On To The Memories

Topic: **Creating Memories**
Subject: **Social Studies/Art**

Grade Level: **Elementary (1st–4th)**
Time: **45 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn that it is helpful to record the events of their lives and use memories to stay connected with loved ones.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Scrapbook activity from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- Materials for scrapbooking: scissors, magazines, construction paper, colored tissue paper, stickers, glitter, crayons, pens, markers, stapler, staples, glue sticks, and tape
- *Scrapbook Topics* list
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/elem

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with Internet access for students to play the scrapbooking activity

LESSON (*Note: Teacher can allow more time to work on the scrapbook pages.*)

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (8 minutes)

- Teacher sets up activity
 - Ask students about activities or events they like to do with parents or family members. Prompts: birthday, sports, school activities, Mother's/Father's day, or family or holiday functions.
 - Discuss what it's like when a family member is unable to attend an event.
 - Introduce topic of deployment and parent missing events: Military parents may be sent to work in other countries for a few months or even more than a year. This is called deployment. While deployed, they miss what is happening in the family, including birthdays, holidays, school events, and sports competitions.
 - Introduce idea of scrapbook: A scrapbook is one way to help a deployed or "away" parent learn about what happened while he or she was away.
 - Explain that students will create a scrapbook to share with someone they love or don't see often.
 - During free time, students can play with the MilitaryKidsConnect.org scrapbooking activity at the computer center.

Teacher Led Activity: Create a scrapbook (37 minutes for beginning activity)

Teacher may allot additional time/days to work on scrapbook.

- Introduce the topics for the scrapbook (see Sample Topics) and provide materials for scrapbooking.
- Encourage students to bring in photos, decorate the cover, and write stories in their scrapbook.

Tips

- Depending on the grade and resources available, students can do this lesson independently or in dyads.
- Extension activity for older students (third and fourth grade): Students can also journal their thoughts. Teachers might want to provide writing topics and set aside time for student journaling during the day.
- Teachers can devote one day each month to this activity so that, by the end of the year, students will have a scrapbook of their school year experiences.
- The scrapbook can also be used as a gift for a student or school staff member who is departing or away from school for a lengthy period of time (e.g., maternity leave, recovery from surgery or illness).

Sample Scrapbook Topics

Students can scrapbook about a number of topics. The list below is not comprehensive, but can serve as a guide for students who are unable to decide on a topic.

- Things that have happened at school
 - Your favorite subject and least favorite subject
 - Your favorite thing to do at school
 - The best thing that happened to you at school
 - Your favorite lunch
- What happened today or on a specific day
 - What you wore
 - Things you ate
 - What you did for fun
 - Activities you participated in
 - How you helped out at home
 - When you thought of your parent
 - What you would like to do with your parent or family in the future
- How you are changing
 - Physical changes: Lost teeth, your new height and weight, your new shoe size
 - New responsibility or experience (e.g., joined cub scouts, swim team...)
 - Something new you learned (e.g., skateboarding, go kart racing...)
- Your favorite things
 - Your favorite sport to play this season or watch on TV
 - Your favorite new toy
 - Your favorite singer or actor
 - Your favorite book
 - Your favorite foods
 - Your favorite holiday
 - Your favorite thing to do or place to go on vacation
- Your neighborhood
 - Your friends and what you like to do together
 - The best thing about living in your neighborhood
 - What you see when you look out the window
 - The best place to play
- Things that have happened this month
 - The weather
 - The best thing about this month
 - Your idea of the perfect day
- Your birthday or a family event
 - How you celebrated your birthday or other family event
 - Something that made your birthday special
 - Things you ate
 - Something that surprised you