



LESSON PLAN

Send Something Special

Topic: **Send a Letter to a Service Member** | Grade Level: **Elementary (1st–4th Grades)**
Subject: **Social Studies** | Time: **25 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will recognize the importance of remembering our military service members deployed overseas and will write a friendly letter to a service member stationed abroad.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Holiday Cheer* video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- Deployed service member names and addresses (one per student) (*see Tips below*)
- "Send a Soldier a Letter" Worksheet
- Pencils, crayons and scissors
- Envelopes with first-class stamps
- 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 classroom display and Internet access

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (3 minutes)

- Teacher introduces lesson by exploring with students how exciting it can be to receive a letter or card.
 - Ask students if they have ever received a card or letter. Do they remember how it made them feel? Happy? Loved? Appreciated?
 - It's not only our friends and family members who deserve to be recognized. There are many members of our military forces who are sacrificing a lot to help our country. Some work thousands of miles from home, separated from the people they love. They can be away a year or longer and might miss every holiday and family celebration during that period. Can students imagine how that would feel?
 - Tell students that they're going to watch a video about a teenage girl who did something special to show her appreciation for a group of U.S. soldiers.

Video (4 minutes)

- Cue and screen *Holiday Cheer* video

Class Discussion/Activity (12 minutes)

- Give each student a "Send a Soldier a Letter" Worksheet and envelope addressed to a service member
- Instruct students that:
 - They are each going to write a friendly letter to a deployed soldier
 - They should address the letter to "their" soldier, whose name is on the envelope
 - When finished writing, they should color the picture and cut it out
 - They should raise their hands when finished, and the teacher will review the letter before it goes into the envelope
 - At the end of class, the teacher will collect envelopes to be mailed

Tips

- If time allows, students can take turns using the classroom computer(s) to play the *Operation Care Package Game* on the MilitaryKidsConnect.org site.
- To find names and addresses of deployed service members, go to: <http://www.adoptaussoldier.org/Adopt a U.S. Soldier>

WORKSHEET

“Send a Soldier a Letter” Worksheet (1st–2nd Grade)

Directions:

- Put “your” soldier’s name after “Dear”
- Fill in the blanks
- Put your name at the end – remind students to only use their first name
- Draw a picture in the blank space, then cut out your letter
- Raise your hand to have your teacher check your work
- Seal the envelope!

Dear _____,

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old. I am in _____ grade.

Thank you for serving our country! I made this picture for you.

Sincerely,

WORKSHEET

"Send a Soldier a Letter" Worksheet (3rd–4th Grade)

Directions:

- Write to "your" soldier (use the name on your envelope)
- Ask students to only use their first name
- Either fill in the letter below or write your own on a separate piece of paper
- If you want, draw a picture or decorate your letter
- If you use the letter below, cut it out after you're finished
- Raise your hand to have your teacher check your work
- Seal the envelope and give it to your teacher

Dear _____,

My name is _____. **I am** ____ **years old**
and in _____ **grade.**

In our Language Arts class, we saw a video about _____

_____.

I wanted to write to you because _____

_____.

Thank you for serving our country!

Sincerely,
