



LESSON PLAN

Military Life 101

Topic: **Military Life 101/Deployments, Veterans Day**
Subject: **Language Arts/Social Studies**

Grade Level: **Middle School**
Time: **50 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn about military life and the sacrifices involved by watching the story of four friends who support each other through their parents' deployments. This lesson can be tied to a major national holiday, such as Veterans Day.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- The *Girl Talk* video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- "Student Worksheet"
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links:
www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/mid

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (10 minutes)

Teacher-Led Discussion

- Refer to upcoming Veterans Day holiday and ask students if they know the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day
 - Memorial Day honors those who died while serving in the military, particularly those who died in battle
 - Veterans Day is largely meant to honor living veterans who served, whether in peacetime or wartime
- Veterans Day also provides an opportunity to reflect on those currently serving
- Ask if students know anyone in the military. What do they do? Where are they located?
- Define deployment: when a service member has to be relocated.
 - During times of war, service members might be deployed in areas of conflict.
 - Deployments often last a year.
- Tell students they are going to watch a video about a group of friends who support one another during their parents' deployments.
- Instruct students that while they're watching the video, they should think about what family life would be like if their parent were gone for a year.

Video (8 minutes)

- Cue and screen *Girl Talk* Video

Class Discussion (10 minutes)

- What did you learn about military life and military families?
- What in the video had the greatest impact on you?
- Can you relate to the four girls and their experiences? In what way(s)?

Worksheet Activity (20 minutes)

- Distribute the "Student Worksheet"
- Instruct students to answer the questions
- If time allows, students may share their answers with the class

Student Worksheet

Directions: Imagine that one of your parents is about to be deployed to another country for a year. Think about and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think would be the biggest change in your day-to-day family life?
2. The characters in *Girl Talk* mentioned that they had more responsibilities when their parents were away, including responsibility for their younger siblings. What additional responsibilities would you have to take on?
3. What would you miss most about your parent? Talking to him/her? Playing sports together? Participating in a special tradition that you do together? Something else? Be as specific as you can.
4. The girls in the video relied on one another for support. Who would be the first person you'd turn to? What other people (either those your age, or adults) could provide you with support?
5. The characters in *Girl Talk* spoke about what it's like to have a parent miss their birthdays. What one holiday/event would you most want your parent to be present for?
6. Did the video change any of your beliefs or understandings about the military and military life? If so, how?
7. If you had a friend whose parent is deployed, what would you do to support him/her?