Veterans Day History

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What is the traditional date of U.S. Veterans Day?
   A. November 11
   B. October 11
   C. November 1
   D. November 21
   Correct answer: A. November 11
   Veterans Day falls on November 11 each year. When that date falls on a weekend, the federal day off may be scheduled on an adjacent weekday.

2. A town plans to thank living former service members, including people who served in peacetime. Which U.S. holiday fits that purpose best?
   A. Independence Day
   B. Memorial Day
   C. Veterans Day
   D. Flag Day
   Correct answer: C. Veterans Day
   Veterans Day thanks people who served in the U.S. military, including living veterans who served in peacetime. Memorial Day commemorates people who died in military service.

3. In the original name Armistice Day, what does an armistice mean?
   A. A declaration establishing a new country
   B. An agreement to stop fighting
   C. An agreement to fix tariff rates
   D. A law creating a new public holiday
   Correct answer: B. An agreement to stop fighting
   An armistice is an agreement to suspend fighting. The U.S. observance traces its name to the November 1918 armistice in World War I.

4. Which spelling does the Department of Veterans Affairs use for this U.S. holiday?
   A. Veteran Day
   B. Veterans’ Day
   C. Veteran’s Day
   D. Veterans Day
   Correct answer: D. Veterans Day
   The official name uses the plural Veterans without an apostrophe. The name identifies the people being honored.

5. Congress created the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in 2000. What does the project collect?

A. The schedules for official Veterans Day parades
B. Veterans' firsthand accounts of their service
C. Applications to observe a federal holiday
D. Voting records from veterans' organizations

Correct answer: B. Veterans' firsthand accounts of their service
The project collects and preserves personal accounts and related materials. Interviews and other records give researchers access to veterans' own perspectives.

6. Which U.S. president issued the message marking the first Armistice Day anniversary in November 1919?

A. Woodrow Wilson
B. William Howard Taft
C. Warren G. Harding
D. Calvin Coolidge

Correct answer: A. Woodrow Wilson
Woodrow Wilson was president when the United States marked the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919. His message connected the day with remembrance and peace.

7. In 1947, Raymond Weeks organized a November 11 parade to honor veterans. In which city did the parade take place?

A. Savannah, Georgia
B. Mobile, Alabama
C. Jackson, Mississippi
D. Birmingham, Alabama

Correct answer: D. Birmingham, Alabama
Weeks organized the event in Birmingham. It was a local precursor to the broader national observance that Congress named Veterans Day in 1954.

8. A 1926 congressional resolution invited the public to mark November 11 with ceremonies in schools, churches, and other venues. What did Congress ask the president to call for at federal government buildings?

A. Open all federal offices for public tours.
B. Read the same speech from the steps of every building.
C. Display the U.S. flag.
D. Install a permanent plaque on every exterior wall.

Correct answer: C. Display the U.S. flag.
The resolution asked the president to call for flags on government buildings. It also invited community ceremonies marking the day.

9. The 1938 statute made November 11 a legal holiday called Armistice Day. To what cause did the law explicitly dedicate the day?

A. World peace
B. Public education
C. International trade
D. Historic preservation

Correct answer: A. World peace
The statute dedicated the holiday to world peace. That purpose was part of the same law that made Armistice Day a legal public holiday.

10. At the national Veterans Day ceremony, what does the president or a representative place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?

A. A copy of the holiday proclamation
B. A folded parade banner
C. An inscribed stone
D. A wreath

Correct answer: D. A wreath
A wreath is placed at the tomb as part of the national ceremony. It is one of the formal acts of remembrance that take place there on Veterans Day.

11. An exhibit label says the 1954 act introduced a new November date as part of renaming Armistice Day. What does Public Law 380 actually show?

A. It created a second November holiday and kept Armistice Day separate.
B. It changed the date to November 11 and kept the name Armistice Day.
C. It replaced the word Armistice with Veterans in the earlier law and kept November 11.
D. It adopted Veterans Day as the name and set the date as the last Monday of November.

Correct answer: C. It replaced the word Armistice with Veterans in the earlier law and kept November 11.
The amendment made a one-word change in the 1938 statute. November 11 was already the date and stayed in place under the 1954 law.

12. A researcher reads Dwight D. Eisenhower’s 1954 Veterans Day proclamation after reading the act of Congress. What responsibility did the proclamation assign to the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs?

A. Select a new date for Congress to consider each year.
B. Chair a committee that would coordinate planning for the national observance.
C. Supervise local ceremonies while leaving national coordination to state governors.
D. Manage only the flag display at the White House.

Correct answer: B. Chair a committee that would coordinate planning for the national observance.
Eisenhower designated the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs to chair a committee for national planning. The proclamation organized the observance after Congress had changed the name.

13. A federal calendar marks Veterans Day on the fourth Monday of October in 1976 and on November 11 in 1978. Which explanation fits both entries?

A. The law restoring November 11 took effect in 1975, but it specifically exempted every year ending in six.
B. The same federal law required an October observance in even-numbered years and a November observance in odd-numbered years.
C. The October rule was permanent, and the 1978 entry marks a one-time federal exception.
D. The law restoring November 11 took effect in 1978, so the October rule still applied in 1976.

Correct answer: D. The law restoring November 11 took effect in 1978, so the October rule still applied in 1976.
Congress restored November 11 through a law passed in 1975, but the law set its effective date at January 1, 1978. The fourth-Monday-in-October rule still applied to the 1976 federal holiday.

14. A VA certificate recognizes a town event as a Veterans Day Regional Site. A historian wants to know which advertised activities took place. What additional evidence would best answer that question?

A. Dated photographs and local reporting from the day of the event
B. A second copy of the mailed recognition certificate
C. A copy of the rules for the national Veterans Day poster contest
D. An earlier list of towns that applied for regional recognition

Correct answer: A. Dated photographs and local reporting from the day of the event
The certificate documents VA recognition. Dated photographs and reporting can show which parts of the community event actually happened.

15. A November 2022 Congressional Record statement describes two milestones for the National Native American Veterans Memorial. Which exhibit label matches the account?

A. The memorial first opened and was formally dedicated on the same day in 2022.
B. The memorial was formally dedicated in 2020 and first opened in 2022.
C. The memorial opened in 2020 and was formally dedicated in 2022.
D. The 2020 and 2022 dates both mark openings at different locations.

Correct answer: C. The memorial opened in 2020 and was formally dedicated in 2022.
The memorial opened on Veterans Day in 2020. The pandemic delayed the formal dedication, which took place on Veterans Day in 2022.