



STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR

Student Study Guide

An Exciting Journey Through American History

Music • Lasers • Storytelling • Civics • Service • Gratitude

Welcome!

This colorful guide accompanies Star Spangled Spectacular. Explore the people, places, events, inventions, ideas, music, and symbols that helped shape the United States - and discover how ordinary people can make a difference through courage and service.

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Please note the performance name on all correspondence.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

History Comes Alive!

Star Spangled Spectacular takes students on an exciting journey through American history using music, laser technology, storytelling, and spectacular imagery. Students encounter people, places, events, inventions, and ideas that helped shape the United States.

A Veterans Day Connection

The program encourages students to understand military service and recognize the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our nation.

LOOK, LISTEN & WONDER

- Notice how music changes the mood.
- Watch how laser imagery represents people, places, symbols, and events.
- Listen for stories of courage, creativity, leadership, and service.
- Think about how history connects to our lives today.

BIG QUESTION

How have people and ideas helped shape the story of America?

My prediction:

AMERICAN HISTORY CONNECTIONS

★ THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The American colonies declared independence from Great Britain in 1776. The Declaration of Independence announced the colonies’ decision and expressed important ideas about freedom and equality.

Think: What does independence mean?

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

The Constitution established the framework of our government. It explains federal powers and responsibilities and protects important rights and freedoms.

Think: Why does a country need rules and a system of government?

THE AMERICAN FLAG

The flag is one of our nation’s most recognizable symbols. Its 50 stars represent the states, while its 13 stripes represent the original colonies.

Think: What feelings or ideas does the flag represent to you?

13 STRIPES	50 STARS
Original colonies	United States

HEROES WHO HELPED BUILD AMERICA

America's story includes many kinds of heroes.

INVENTORS

Developed ideas and technologies that changed how people lived and worked.

EXPLORERS & PIONEERS

Traveled to new places and expanded knowledge of the country.

LEADERS

Presidents, activists, government officials, and community leaders shaped society.

VETERANS

Members of the armed forces served during times of peace and war.

Important: A hero does not have to be famous. People show courage, leadership, kindness, creativity, and service every day.

WHAT IS VETERANS DAY?

Veterans Day is observed every November 11 to honor all people who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

- A veteran is someone who has served in the military.
- Veterans Day honors all who served; Memorial Day honors military members who died while serving.
- Veterans have served in different branches and many different roles.

Why is it important to recognize and thank veterans?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE?

Service means helping others or contributing to something larger than yourself. Military service is one form, but people serve communities in many ways.  

Teachers	Firefighters
Police Officers	Doctors & Nurses
Volunteers	Community Leaders
Military Personnel	Students

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

What are some ways YOU can serve your school, family, or community?

One way I already help others:

One new act of service I would like to try:

PATRIOTISM

Patriotism means showing love, respect, and commitment to your country.

- Learn about American history
- Respect the rights of others
- Participate in your community
- Be a responsible citizen
- Respect the flag and national symbols
- Thank those who serve

Patriotism can be expressed in many ways. Learning about both our nation's accomplishments and its challenges helps us become informed citizens.

CIVICS CONNECTION

Good citizens understand that rights and responsibilities go together.

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
Freedom of speech Freedom of religion Freedom of the press Peaceful assembly	Follow laws Respect others Stay informed Participate Help others

One responsibility I have in my school community:

MUSIC & AMERICAN CULTURE

Music has played an important role in American history. Patriotic music can express:



Pride	Hope	Unity
Courage	Gratitude	Remembrance

During Star Spangled Spectacular, music and laser imagery work together to create an exciting experience of history and culture.

LISTEN & THINK

How does music make you feel?

How can music bring people together?

A moment when the music changed the mood:

Draw a symbol, color, or shape that matches the music:

BEFORE THE SHOW

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1. What do I know about Veterans Day?
 2. Do I know a veteran?
 3. What does service mean to me?
 4. What are important symbols of the United States?
 5. Which historical figure would I like to learn more about?
 6. What does being a good citizen mean?

AFTER THE SHOW

- 1. One person, place, or event I learned about:**

- 2. Something I learned about Veterans Day:**

- 3. Why we should honor veterans:**

- 4. What patriotism means to me:**

- 5. My favorite part of the performance and why:**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Take a moment to think about veterans in your community. Write a thoughtful message of appreciation.



A meaningful thank-you can mention:

- Appreciation for service
- A lesson you learned
- A wish for the veteran
- A promise to be a caring citizen

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for...

With gratitude,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

WHAT DOES SERVICE MEAN TO ME?

On the star below, write or draw one way you can serve your school, family, community, or country.



Idea Bank: Help a classmate • Volunteer • Keep the community clean • Show kindness • Learn history • Thank a veteran • Respect others



MY SERVICE STAR

Class Display: Put everyone's stars together to create a colorful "Wall of Service."

KEY VOCABULARY



Veteran	a person who has served in the military
Service	helping others or contributing to a community or country
Patriotism	love and commitment to one's country
Citizen	a legally recognized member of a country
Freedom	the ability to act, speak, or choose within protections of law
Independence	freedom from control by another authority
Constitution	the foundational document establishing the U.S. government and protecting rights
Hero	a person admired for courage, achievement, or helping others
Veterans Day	a U.S. holiday honoring people who served in the armed forces

THE BIG IDEA

America's history was shaped by people who believed in something bigger than themselves. By learning our history, understanding our responsibilities as citizens, and honoring those who serve, we help carry that story forward.

LEARN • HONOR • SERVE • SHINE