



250 YEARS OF THE U.S. ARMY



AMERICAN
VILLAGE
CITIZENSHIP TRUST™

RESOURCE INFORMATION

The United States Army is celebrating
250 years of service in 2025.

We here at the American Village are proud
to recognize this anniversary and wish the
United States Army a very happy birthday!

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

- **Kinder through Second Grades**
 - Visual Timeline
 - Create a Shield/Crest
 - Letter Writing
- **Third through Fifth Grades**
 - Timeline Reflection Activity
 - Create a Shield/Crest
 - Letter Writing
- **Sixth through Eighth Grades**
 - Timeline Reflection Activity
 - Letter Writing
- **Ninth through Twelfth Grades**
 - Full 60 minute lesson

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| • SS.1a | • SS.11.1b |
| • SS.4.14 | • SS.11.2 |
| • SS.5.9b | • SS.11.7 |
| • SS.5.10 | • Holocaust Studies |
| • SS.5.15 | – 18C |
| • SS.6.8 | • Contemporary |
| • SS.6.9 | World Issues – 4b |
| • SS.9.10a | • |
| • SS.10.1d | |
| • SS.10.12a | |

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

The United States Army is the oldest branch of the U.S. military, officially established on June 14, 1775, during the early stages of the American Revolutionary War. At the time, the American colonies were fighting to gain independence from Great Britain. In response to the growing need for a unified military force, the Second Continental Congress formed the Continental Army and appointed George Washington as its first commander-in-chief.

After the United States achieved independence in 1783, the U.S. Army continued to play a vital role in defending the new nation and expanding its frontiers. Throughout the 19th century, the Army was involved in a number of conflicts, including the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War. The Civil War, which began in 1861, was a deeply divisive and tragic conflict that pitted the northern Union states against the southern Confederate states. The Army's role in preserving the Union and ending slavery marked a significant chapter in its history.

Beginning in the late 1800s, the U.S. Army evolved into a global force. It participated in major international conflicts, including the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II, where American troops fought in Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. These wars reshaped the world and solidified the Army's role as a leader in international defense and humanitarian efforts. The Army later served in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and more recently in conflicts in the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Beyond combat, the Army has taken on important missions in disaster relief and humanitarian aid. They are one of the greatest forces for good in World History. Soldiers are often deployed to help communities affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires. They also assist in building infrastructure, delivering medical care, and supporting peacekeeping missions around the globe.

Today, the United States Army is a modern, highly trained organization with hundreds of thousands of active-duty soldiers and reservists. Its mission is to defend the nation, support national policies, and assist during times of crisis. The Army's motto, "This We'll Defend," reflects its long-standing commitment to protecting the people and values of the United States.

In 2025, the U.S. Army will celebrate its 250th anniversary. This milestone honors two and a half centuries of service, sacrifice, and dedication. Celebrations and commemorations will take place across the country, recognizing the Army's historic legacy and the individuals who have served with honor.

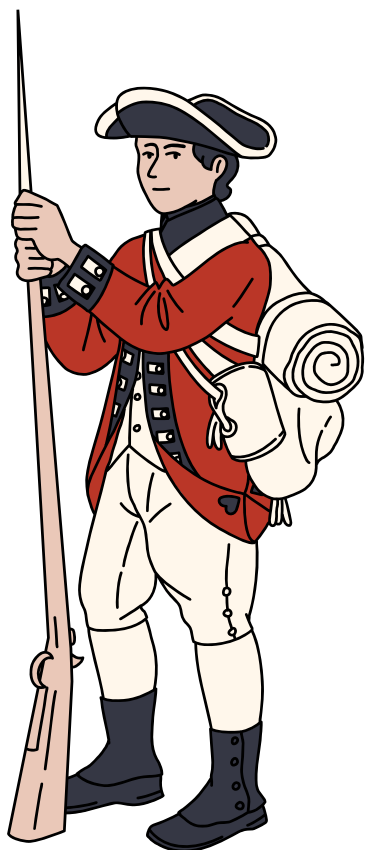
The history of the United States Army is a story of courage, service, and resilience. From the Revolutionary War to modern-day missions, the Army has played a crucial role in shaping the nation and protecting its freedoms. As it marks 250 years in 2025, the Army stands as a symbol of strength and commitment to the American people.

The entire page is framed by a camouflage pattern in shades of green, brown, and black. The central text is contained within a light beige rectangular area with rounded corners and a dashed border.

KINDER THROUGH SECOND

American Village Citizenship Trust • P.O. Box 6 • Montevallo, AL 35115 • www.americanvillage.org

VISUAL TIMELINE ACTIVITY



VISUAL TIMELINE ACTIVITY

1775

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER

1861

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

1945

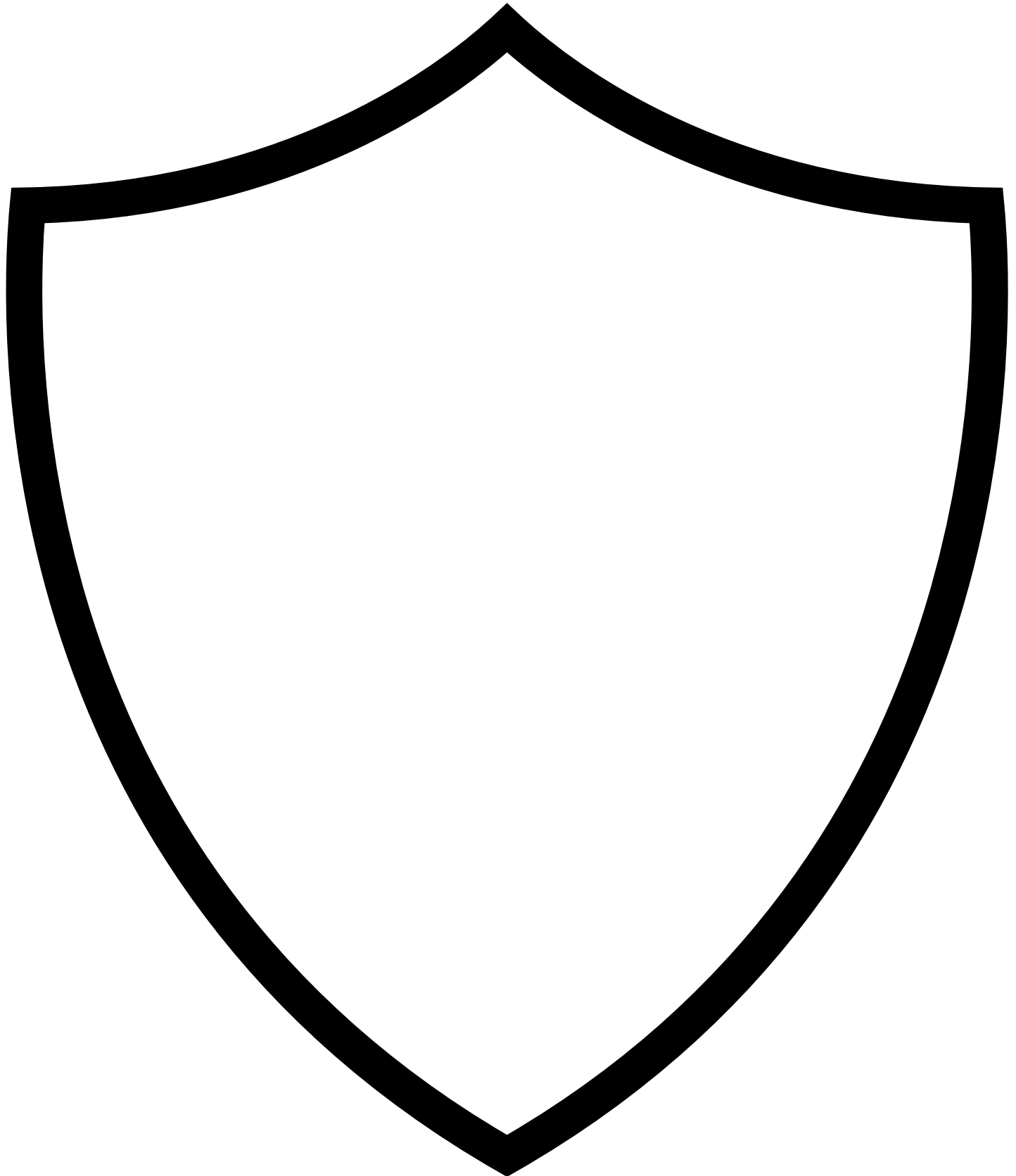
WORLD WAR I SOLDIER

2025

MODERN AMERICAN SOLDIER

DESIGN A SOLDIERS SHEILD

Based on Army values (loyalty, duty, respect, etc.), students design a “shield” for a soldier that reflects those values.



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THIRD THROUGH FIFTH

TIMELINE ACTIVITY

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1812 - The War of 1812 solidified the Army's role in national defense.

1861-1865 - Civil War: Union and Confederate forces engage in the bloodiest conflict in US History.

1917-1918 - World War I: U.S. Army joins Allied forces in Europe.

1941-1945 - World War II: Army leads major campaigns in Europe and the Pacific.

1950-1953 - Korean War begins Cold War military engagements.

1965-1973 - Vietnam War highlights challenges of modern warfare.

2001-2021 - Global War on Terror: Army active in Afghanistan, Iraq, and counterterrorism.

2025 - U.S. Army celebrates 250 years of service.

- Why do you think the Army was formed before the Declaration of Independence?
- In what ways do you think technology has changed the way the Army operates?
- Do you have any family members who have served in the Army? Where and when did they serve?

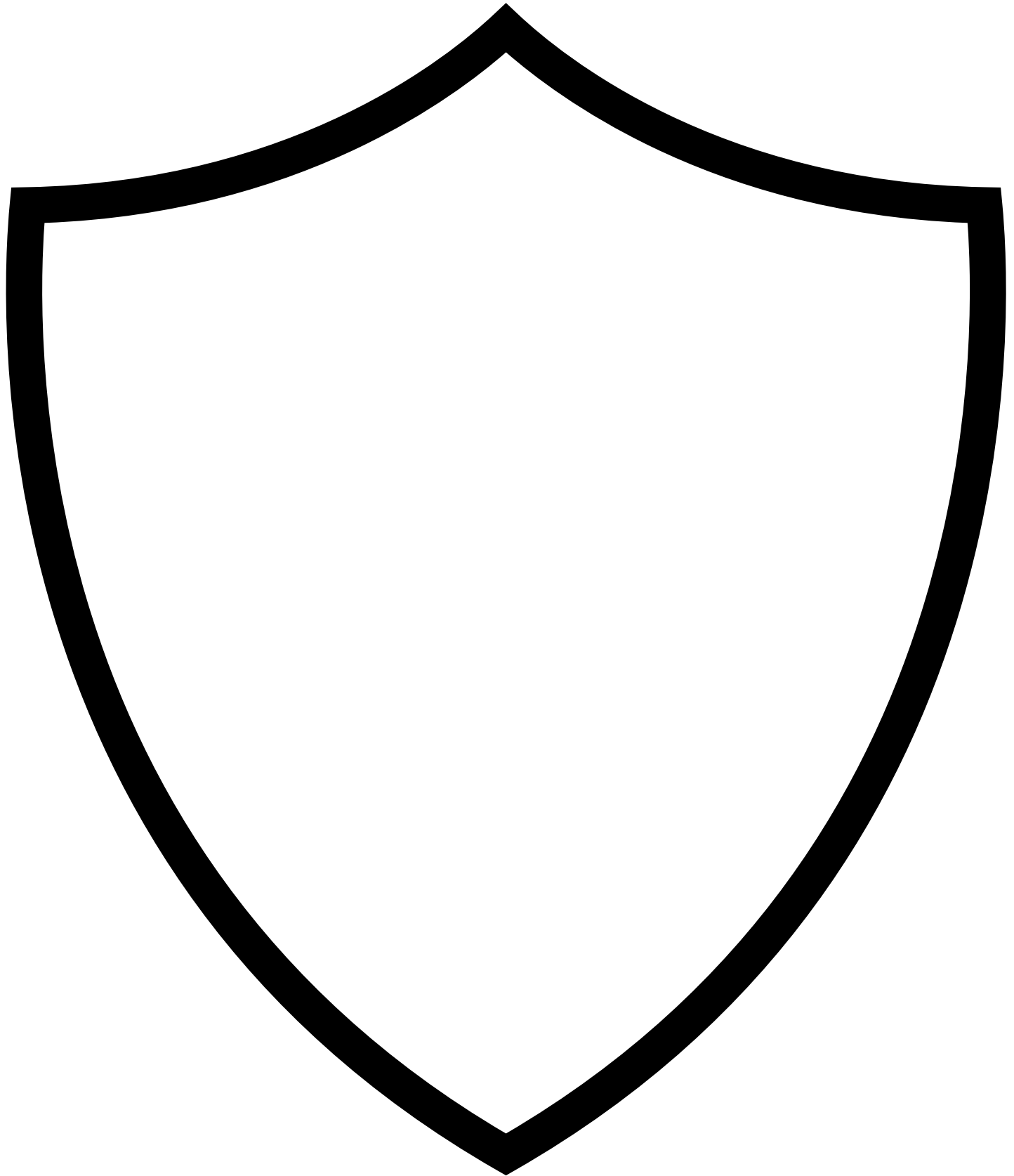
LETTER WRITING


Before social media, military servicemen and women wrote letters to their loved ones. Today, write a letter for a servicemember thanking them for their service and why they are necessary to our country.

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SIXTH THROUGH EIGHTH

TIMELINE ACTIVITY

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A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed black border, intended for writing a letter. It contains 18 horizontal solid black lines for writing, with the first line starting at an indentation on the left and the last line ending at an indentation on the left.

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NINTH THROUGH TWELFTH

ARMY 250 LESSON

Objectives

- Students will:
 - Understand the historical origins and evolution of the U.S. Army.
 - Recognize the contributions of key Army figures across American history.
 - Explore the concept and importance of citizen soldiers.
 - Reflect on why the Army's legacy matters in today's society.

Overview

- Warm-up
 - Think-pair-share on military service and what students already know about the Army.
- Mini-Lecture
 - Brief timeline overview of the U.S. Army's formation, wars, and transformation.
- Key Figures
 - Group activity exploring historical and modern Army figures (e.g., Washington, Eisenhower, Colin Powell).
- Citizen Soldier Stories
 - Examine personal accounts or letters from past and modern soldiers.
- Why It Matters
 - Class discussion and short writing reflection tying past to present.
- Wrap-up
 - One-sentence takeaway: "The Army's legacy matters today because..."

Mini-Lecture Content Highlights: Please add your own elements here

- June 14, 1775: Continental Army founded by the Second Continental Congress.
- Key conflicts: Revolutionary War → Civil War → World Wars → Modern conflicts.
- Transition from conscription to an all-volunteer force.
- The Army's evolving role in civil support, disaster relief, and peacekeeping.

Key Historical Figures Suggestions (for group work or stations) - Please add more or maybe someone from your area.

- George Washington - First Commander-in-Chief, foundational leadership.
- Harriet Tubman - Spy and scout during the Civil War.
- Dwight D. Eisenhower - Supreme Allied Commander in WWII, later President.
- Desmond Doss - WWII medic and Medal of Honor recipient, pacifist hero.
- Colin Powell - Vietnam veteran, first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State.
- Lt. General Laura Richardson - High-ranking woman in modern command.
- Look up brief bios and events they were a part of and ask:
 - What values does this person represent?
 - How did their service influence American history?

ARMY 250 LESSON

Citizen Soldiers

- Activities:
 - Read or watch a short primary source (letter from a Civil War volunteer, video of a National Guard member).
 - Possible prompt discussion: What motivates ordinary people to serve? How do they balance civilian and military life?
- Why It Matters Today: Student Reflection
 - What role should the military play in a democracy?
 - How does the Army protect not just land, but ideas like freedom and responsibility?
 - Why is remembering this 250th Birthday important for your generation?

Possible Assessment:

- Students write a 1-paragraph reflection or deliver a 1-minute oral statement on Why It Matters Today.

U.S. Army at 250 - Timeline & Key Moments

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the Army was formed before the Declaration of Independence?
2. How has the Army's mission changed over 250 years?
3. In what ways do you think technology has changed the way the Army operates?
4. What changed about where we fought wars from the 1700s and 1800s to the 1900s and 2000s? Why do think that change occurred?
5. Do you have any family members who have served in the Army? Where and when did they serve?

ARMY 250 LESSON

Army Heroes Through the Ages - Group Activity

Directions: Your group has been assigned a historical or modern Army figure. Look up information on this person and answer the following:

- Name & Era of Service:
- Battles or Events they were a part of:
- What challenge(s) did this person face?
- What values did this person demonstrate (e.g., courage, duty, leadership)?
- Why is this person still important today?
- If you could ask this person one question, what would it be?

Be ready to share a 1 to 2 minute presentation with the class!

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TODAY?

The U.S. Army's 250th anniversary isn't just about the past — it's about the values we carry into the future.

Write 5-6 sentences answering:

"Why should young Americans today care about the U.S. Army and its legacy?"

What "citizen soldiers" mean in your life.

Why national service and sacrifice matter.

What the Army's history teaches us about democracy or unity.

The Army's legacy matters today because...