

The Purple Heart Award

Subject: Eighth Grade U.S. History

Date: 11/16/2010

Topic of Lesson: The Purple Heart Award

Goal: Students will not only learn what the Purple Heart award is, but also understand its significance in American History.

Objective: Students will use their laptops (or any other sources they would like to utilize) to find information about the Purple Heart Award and hopefully learn to appreciate its meaning!

GLCES: Current Events

Rationale: The Purple Heart award was created by George Washington just after the Revolutionary War ended in 1782; this “web quest” is a student-centered activity that serves as an effective transition from the American Revolution, a unit which we have just completed, to the formation of the Union and the Confederation Era.

Procedures:

- 1) Students will meet in the library and sit down in designated area.
- 2) I will immediately pass out the assignment and go over the directions out loud.
- 3) I will ask a volunteer to read all of the questions out loud, including the extra credit. I will then explain that they may start creating test questions (10) for Section Three of Chapter Nine in their text book if they finish the Purple Heart activity early. I will have a few text books in the library for that purpose.
- 4) 1 table at a time, students will come get a laptop and begin working.

Materials: laptops, loose leaf paper, pencil/pen, text books

Evaluation: The Purple Heart Activity will be turned in at the end of the hour for 21 points total. A maximum of 5 extra credit points may be added to that score.

The Purple Heart (ANSWER SHEET)

1. The United States is, relatively speaking, a young country, but it does have traditions that go back to its beginning. Since the siege of Yorktown at the end of the Revolutionary War, Americans wounded in action have received the medal known as the Purple Heart. Explain that this project will help students appreciate the award and those who have received it.
2. Point students toward the following two Web sites to learn more about the Purple Heart: and Purple Heart at <http://www.americal.org/awards/ph.htm> .
3. Tell students that they are to use the information at those sites—or other sources—to answer the following questions:
 1. Who created the Purple Heart award? (George Washington)
 2. What was the original name of the Purple Heart? (the Badge of Military Merit)
 3. Who were the first recipients of the Purple Heart, and when did they receive their awards? (Sgts. Elijah Churchill and William Brown received their awards on May 3, 1783. Sgt. Daniel Bissell Jr. received his award on June 10, 1783.)
 4. Who awards the Purple Heart, and who is eligible to receive it? (The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the president of the United States to anyone who has been wounded or killed while serving in any capacity with one of the U.S. armed services.)
 5. How does the Purple Heart differ from all other military decorations? (It differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not “recommended” for the Purple Heart. A person is entitled to receive it upon meeting specific criteria.)
 6. What is the difference between the original design of the Purple Heart and the current award? (The current medal, designed by Elizabeth Will, has a profile of George Washington where a sprig had appeared on the original.)
 7. The original award was established on August 7, 1782. What words accompanied the event, and what do they mean? (George Washington wrote in his orderly book on August 7, 1782, “The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all. This order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered a permanent one.” These words may suggest that a wound is a badge of honor and must be recognized as such.)

Name: _____

Hour: _____

Points Earned: _____/21

The Purple Heart



The United States is, relatively speaking, a young country, but it does have traditions that go back to its beginning. Since the siege of Yorktown at the end of the Revolutionary War, Americans wounded in action have received the medal known as the Purple Heart. It is my hope that this project will help you appreciate this award and especially those that received it!

Once you have your laptop, please go to the following website and use the information to answer the questions below: <http://www.americal.org/awards/ph.htm>. This is a great source, but feel free to use other sites, books, or search engines (such as Google or Yahoo) if you would like! See me if you need a separate sheet of paper to answers the questions.

- 1) Who created the Purple Heart award?
- 2) What was the original name of the Purple Heart?
- 3) Who were the first recipients of the Purple Heart, and when did they receive their awards?
- 4) Who awards the Purple Heart, and who is eligible to receive it?
- 5) How does the Purple Heart differ from all other military decorations?

- 6) What is the difference between the original design of the Purple Heart and the current award?
- 7) The original award was established on August 7, 1782. What words accompanied the event, and what do they mean?

Extra Credit Option: On this sheet or on a separate sheet of paper, tell me about a family member or friend that you know is in the U.S. military. Which branch of the military do they serve? Where are they stationed right now? Have they earned a Purple Heart or any other military decoration? Is there anything else you'd like to share about this person?

Accommodations/Differentiation/Individualization: Some students may want to work with a partner to find and read information from the websites. Students with different learning styles could illustrate several of the questions and write a caption for each instead of filling out the short essay questions.