



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

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## “U.S. Military”

Grades K-2

**Objective:** The student will identify the role of a soldier in the U.S. Military.

This objective partially covers GPS requirement **SSKH1(c)**  
(For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state education curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan may satisfy.)

### Materials:

- Brief summary of the U.S. Military (see below)
- Soldiers coloring sheet
  - <http://www.edupics.com/coloring-pictures-pages-book-soldiers-1642.htm>
- crayons
- pencils

### Procedure:

1. Ask students what it is like to feel protected. Examples include: safe, not scared, don't have to worry, etc.
2. Now ask students who are some of the people that protect them. Examples include: mom, dad, grandparents, teachers, police officers, etc.
3. Ask students if they knew that many soldiers were protecting them as we speak.
4. Introduce students to the U.S. Military by summarizing the passage below:

The **Military of the United States**, officially known as the [United States Armed Forces](#), is structured into five branches consisting of the:

- [United States Army](#)
- [United States Marine Corps](#)
- [United States Navy](#)
- [United States Air Force](#)
- [United States Coast Guard](#)

The [U.S. Public Health Service](#) and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) also have active duty uniformed officers, known as the Commissioned Officer Corps (see [United States Uniformed Services](#)).

All branches are part of the United States Uniformed Services and are under civilian control with the President of the United States serving as Commander-in-Chief. All branches except the Coast Guard are part of the Department of Defense, which is under the authority of the Secretary of Defense, who is also a civilian. The Coast Guard falls under the authority of the Department of Homeland Security. During wartime, the Coast Guard may be placed under the Department of Defense through the Department of the Navy in times of need acting as a service to the Navy.<sup>[5]</sup>

Approximately 1,426,713 personnel are currently on active duty in the military with an additional 1,259,000 personnel in the seven reserve components (53,000 of whom are in the Army and Air National Guard).<sup>[6]</sup> As it is currently a volunteer military, there is no conscription. Women are not allowed to serve in some combat assignments, but they are allowed to serve in most non-combat specialties. Due to the realities of war some of these non-combat positions see combat regularly.<sup>[7]</sup>

Much of U.S. military capability is involved in logistics and transportation, which enable rapid buildup of forces as needed. The Air Force maintains a large fleet of C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster, and C-130 Hercules transportation aircraft with an equally large fleet of aerial refuelling tankers. The Marine Corps maintains Marine Expeditionary Units at sea with the Navy's Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. The Navy's fleet of 11 active aircraft carriers, combined with a military doctrine of power projection, enables a flexible response to potential threats. For these reasons, the United States military is universally considered the most powerful in the world.

Source: Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_the_United_States)

5. Pass out a coloring sheet to each student. Have students color the sheet while you circulate the room and ask each student to name something the U.S. Military does for us.
6. Older students should write a sentence on their coloring sheet naming something the U.S. Military does for us.

**Assessment:**

Evaluate students' responses about what the U.S. Military does for us as American citizens.