



# LESSON PLAN

## MASCOTS AND MOTTOS

**Series:** US Military

### Objective

To help students practice using glossaries, context clues, and examples to explore the definitions of *mascot* and *motto*.

### Supplies

- Several books in the US Military series
- Whiteboard
- Mascots and Mottos worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

### Before the Activity

Print a copy of the Mascots and Mottos worksheet for each student. Write the following definitions on the whiteboard:

- mascot: an animal, person, or thing that is used as a symbol for a group
- motto: a short sentence or phrase that describes a group's beliefs or goals

### Activity

The US Military has several different branches and forces. Each of these groups focuses on different types of work. For example, the US Marine Corps is a branch whose members are known for being brave, tough, and strong.

Like many groups, the US Marine Corps has a mascot. Read the definition of *mascot* from the whiteboard out loud. Explain that a mascot often shows what a group is like. For example, many sports teams have mascots that are fierce hunters, such as eagles or tigers. Like the teams' players, these animals are fast and strong. To give readers another example, read the sidebar on p. 27 of the *US Marine Corps* book out loud:

- The US Marines' mascot is an English bulldog. Bulldogs are fierce and strong like marines. The mascot's name is Chesty. He joins parades and other events.

Next, turn to page 8 and read the fast fact out loud:

- The US Marines' motto is "Always Faithful."

Read the definition on the whiteboard for *motto* out loud. Explain that marines are known for doing hard missions and for never leaving a person behind. Their motto matches these traits.



Next, pass out the Mascots and Mottos worksheets. Invite each student to choose a book from the US Military series. Students should read through the book on their own. Then, they should answer the questions on the worksheet.

### **Evaluation**

Collect the worksheets at the end of class, giving students 1 point for each correct answer, for up to 5 points total.

Use the following list of mottos to score questions 1 and 2:

- The Green Berets have a motto. It says, “To Free the Oppressed.” (*Green Berets*, p. 13)
- PJs [pararescue jumpers] work to rescue people. Their motto is “That Others May Live.” (*US Air Force*, p. 7)
- The Army’s motto is “This We’ll Defend.” (*US Army*, p. 13)
- The Coast Guard’s motto is “Always Ready.” (*US Coast Guard*, p. 8)
- The National Guard’s motto is “Always Ready, Always There.” (*US National Guard*, p. 27)
- No motto mentioned: *US Navy, Navy SEALs*

Answers to questions 3–5 will vary.



# MASCOTS AND MOTTOS

1. Is there a motto described in the book?

2. If there is a motto, write it in the space below. If there is not, make up a motto you think would be a good fit.

3. How does this motto match the beliefs or goals of this branch of the military?

4. What animal would be a good mascot for this branch of the military?

5. Why do you think this animal would be a good fit?