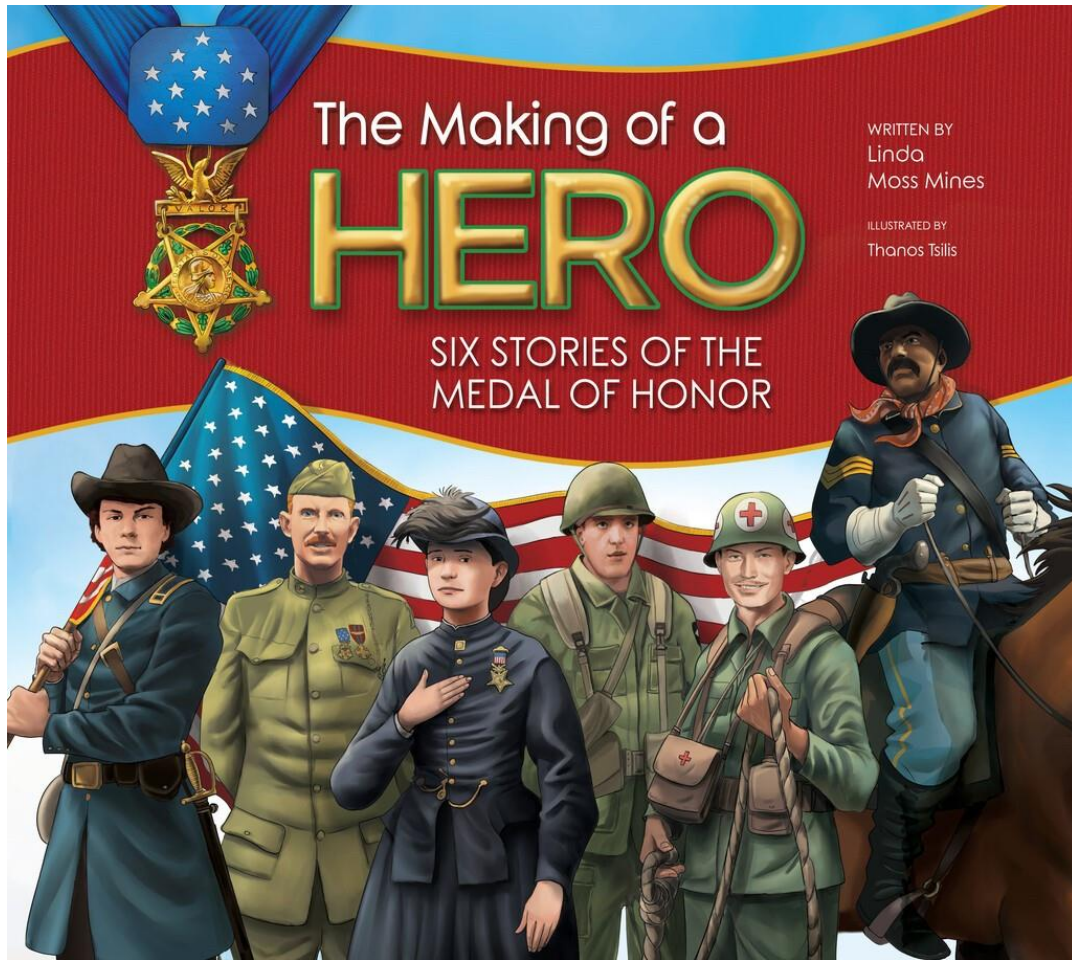




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NATIONAL  
**MEDAL of HONOR**  
HERITAGE CENTER



## **Lesson Plans, Activities, and Additional Resources**

**[MOHHC.org/TheMakingOfAHero](http://MOHHC.org/TheMakingOfAHero)**

## WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?

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Lessons from **The Making of a Hero**  
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1. In **The Making of a Hero**, 18-year-old Arthur MacArthur grabbed the U.S. flag and ran up Missionary Ridge. His actions inspired the other soldiers to follow him and eventually the enemy was defeated. His action was described as an example of *PATRIOTISM*. What do you think the word, patriotism, means?

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2. In the book and in the picture above, patriotism is connected with the U. S. flag. Can you think of someone who has demonstrated patriotism in a way that does not involve the flag? What are other ways of showing patriotism?

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3. How might you show your love for your community and your nation?

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## WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

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Lessons from **The Making of a Hero**  
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1. George Jordan was awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor as a U. S. Army Buffalo Soldier serving in the western United States. We remember him also for the character trait of *CITIZENSHIP*. Think about Sgt. Jordan's story. How did he show citizenship in the choices he made in his life?

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2. How might you explain the trait, citizenship, to a friend who does not understand what the word means?

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3. Even though you are young, you can be a good citizen, too. What can you do to demonstrate good citizenship?

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## WHAT IS COURAGE?

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1. In **The Making of a Hero**, each of the Medal of Honor recipients demonstrated courage. How did Sgt. Alvin C. York's story show *COURAGE* during his service in the U.S. Army during World War I?

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2. When people talk about courage, they often talk about fear, too. You can be afraid and show courage at the same time. Look around. Think about your classroom, your school and your family. Can you think of someone who has demonstrated courage during difficult times? Tell us about that person in two sentences.

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3. Now, think about yourself. How might you show courage in a situation that is a bit frightening for you? With whom might you talk about your plan?

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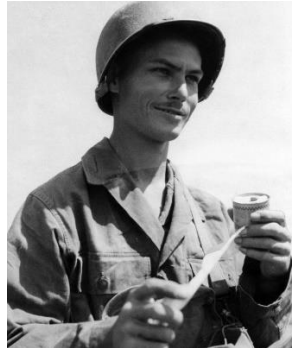
**WHAT IS INTEGRITY?**

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Lessons from **The Making of a Hero**  
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1. In the story of Medal of Honor recipient Desmond Doss, Lucy explains the word, integrity, by sharing something her grandma told her. “Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.” In your own words, what does Lucy’s definition of *INTEGRITY* mean?

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2. Desmond Doss wanted to serve his nation but his religious beliefs convinced him that he could not carry a gun into a battle. Instead, how did he choose to serve?

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3. Sometimes you know the right thing to do. Sometimes the right thing to do may be difficult to know? Are there people in your life and in your school that you might talk with about a decision you might have to make? How would you decide with whom to talk?

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## **WHAT IS SACRIFICE?**



1. In **The Making of a Hero**, the story about Sgt. Ray Duke is sad because he died while serving in the U.S. Army. But, *SACRIFICE* does not mean a person has to die for his or her beliefs. How would you describe sacrifice and why is this character trait important?

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2. Do you know someone who has sacrificed to make your life better? Or to make your school better? Or to improve your community? Tell us about that person in two sentences.

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3. Think about your family. How might you sacrifice your time or something else to make your family's life happier?

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## **WHAT IS COMMITMENT?**



1. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor. While her actions during the U.S. Civil War demonstrated all six of the character traits, we remember her today for her *COMMITMENT*. Think about her story in **The Making of a Hero**. How did Dr. Walker show commitment?

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2. Your teacher is committed to helping you become a better student. Your parents are committed to helping you become the best person you can become. Can you think of someone else in your life who is a 'committed' person? How does that person prove his or her commitment?

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3. With all these examples of commitment, you're probably inspired to get involved in a project. Are you committed to a creating a better environment? More kindness in your classroom? What are your plans to commit to making your world a better place to live?

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## **THE FIRST MEDALS OF HONOR**

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Lessons from **The Making of a Hero**  
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On the first page of **The Making of a Hero**, there is an illustration of this monument at the Chattanooga, Tennessee National Cemetery.

1. Let's pretend that we are detectives solving a mystery. What do you see in the photograph?

Make a list: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Now read the following story about Andrews' Raiders and 'The Great Locomotive Chase' of 1862.

*During the American Civil War, a group of U. S. Army soldiers and two additional men decided to support the Union cause by destroying the railroad that connected two important cities in the Confederacy - - Chattanooga, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. This band of men was led by a civilian, James Andrews.*

*Just before sunrise on April 12, a locomotive named THE GENERAL, arrived in a small Georgia town named Big Shanty. Most of the crew and passengers got off the train to eat breakfast at a hotel. The crew did not know that Andrews and his men [the Raiders] had purchased tickets at an earlier station and were also aboard the train.*

*With the crew and most of the passengers off the train, Andrews gave the order for the Raiders to seize control of the train. Andrew knew that this small town did not have a telegraph so the news that the train had been stolen would not be known for several hours. As the Raiders drove the train north toward Chattanooga and away from Atlanta, they tore up the rails, hoping that another train could not follow them. They also destroyed the telegraph lines.*

*But, the Confederate soldiers did not give up easily. Some chased the train on foot. Other soldiers located three locomotives and a train chase began, lasting over seven hours. Just outside of Chattanooga, the Raiders had to abandon the General because they ran out of wood and water to power the steam engine. Most of the Raiders were captured before they could return to safety behind the U.S. Army lines and eight of them were executed as spies.*

*As a result of their valor during this mission more than 200 miles into enemy territory, 19 of the 22 men received the Medal of Honor. Jacob Parrott was the first recipient of the Medal of Honor.*



3. Five of the Medal of Honor recipients from Andrews Raiders are buried at the Chattanooga National Cemetery near the memorial featuring *The General*.

Put your detective hat back on and examine this photo of Samuel Slavens' tombstone. His tombstone has a golden shield and letters. Only Medal of Honor recipients' tombstones have these golden shields and letters.



Only veterans of military service [and their wives or husbands] may be buried in a national cemetery. Why might the tombstones of Medal of Honor recipients be easily identified?

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## THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

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“The Medal of Honor is the United States’ highest personal military award given to a member of our armed forces for valor. What is valor? It is often described as “courage above and beyond the call of duty.” This means Medal of Honor recipients did heroic actions for the American military?”



**The Making of a Hero**  
Page 2

What does the phrase “member of our armed forces” mean? Who or what are “our armed forces”? That’s a great question. Let’s see if we can answer it.

**THERE ARE FIVE BRANCHES OF OUR UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.**

<p><b>U.S. Army</b></p> 	<p>The United States Army is the oldest branch of our armed forces, established in 1775 prior to the Revolutionary War for Independence. The Army is the largest branch of service and its main responsibility is to fight land battles.</p> <p>Members of the U. S. Army are called soldiers.</p>
<p><b>U.S. Navy</b></p> 	<p>The United States Navy was also formed in 1775 when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution creating the Continental Navy.</p> <p>When you think Navy, think ships, submarines and more.</p> <p>Members of the U. S. Navy are called sailors.</p>
<p><b>U.S. Marines</b></p> 	<p>Guess which other military branch was also created in 1775? The United States Marine Corp and they were first known as the Continental Marines. Throughout our nation’s history, the Marines have conducted ship-to-ship fighting and have served as amphibious warriors, meaning they fight on land and at sea.</p>



	<p>A member of the U. S. Marines is simply called a Marine.</p>
<p><b>U.S. Air Force</b></p> 	<p>The United States Air Force was created in 1947. Prior to 1947, the responsibility for military aviation [flight] was divided between the Army for land-based operations and the Navy and Marine Corps for sea-based operations from both aircraft carriers and amphibious aircraft.</p> <p>A member of the U. S. Air Force is called an airman.</p>
<p><b>U.S. Coast Guard</b></p> 	<p>The United States Coast Guard was officially created in 1915 but its roots go back to 1790 when Alexander Hamilton ask Congress to organize a “system of cutters [ships]” to enforce tariffs from ships coming from other countries. Tariffs provided money for the government.</p> <p>A member of the Coast Guard is called a Coast Guardsman and sometimes a “Coastie.”</p>

**Let’s Review. Match the member with the branch of service by drawing a line connecting the correct match. Can you do it in less than ONE MINUTE?**

U.S. Army

Airman

U.S. Navy

Coastie

U.S. Marines

Soldier

U.S. Air Force

Sailor

U.S. Coast Guard

Marine

## VOCABULARY

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Understanding the meaning of words or phrases can help you understand a story. In **The Making of a Hero**, you learned about six Medal of Honor recipients and their individual



stories. You probably encountered some words that you did not immediately recognize but their use in the stories helped you understand their meaning.

Now, working in a small group, talk about each of these words or phrases and agree on a definition for each. Write your definition in the space provided.

1. The Medal of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. allegiance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. “discriminated against”: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. medic: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. conscientious objector: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. surgeon: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were there other ‘new’ words in *The Making of a Hero* that you asked your teacher to explain?

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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES


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	2. Using the map provided by your teacher, trace Sgt. York’s World War I journey	3. Draw a picture that ‘tells the story of Andrews’
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<p>1. Write a four-line poem, song or rap about George Jordan's life and legacy.</p>	<p>from Fentress County, Tennessee to France.</p>	<p>Raiders, the first recipients of the Medal of Honor.</p>
<p>4. Ray Duke, MOH, was a soldier during the Korean War. Using your research tools, find the dates of the Korean War.</p>	<p>5. Dr. Mary Walker, MOH, was the first woman surgeon in the United States. Pretend you are Mary Walker. Write two sentences explaining why you should be admitted to medical school.</p>	<p>6. Choose one of the Medal of Honor recipients from the book and draw an image that tells his/her story.</p>
<p>7. Look closely at the drawing of the Medal of Honor. Identify two symbols on the design.</p> 	<p>8. Arthur MacArthur, MOH, was courageous for carrying the flag up Missionary Ridge during a battle of the U. S. Civil War. Make a list of three facts about the U.S. flag in your classroom.</p>	<p>9. If you could give a 'Good Person' medal to someone you know, who would you choose and why? Write your answer in 2-3 sentences.</p>

## WORD SEARCH



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M A C A R T H U R D C M W H M  
W S F F L L J E U I Q S A Q O  
Y A K F S L A K T Z N I L D K  
Y O S F I F E I O Y O T K P L  
L T R Y L M Z E A C I O E T G  
C V I K L E J I R O T I R A X  
H O O R N A G F J U A R K S J  
H T M S G S D C H R N T H H U  
W G H M S E R C C A Y A H G T  
Y I A O I W T Y Z G T P O U U  
P O D L M T S N J E V L F X A  
V W H F F R M S I R E T J S X  
V A L O R Q O E U R O Z D Q Z  
Z V O P W L B F N A D R O J A  
E C I F I R C A S T Y U O K U

Find these words hidden above:

valor  
citizenship  
patriotism  
Walker  
MacArthur

courage  
sacrifice  
Doss  
York  
flag

commitment  
integrity  
Jordan  
Duke  
nation

Now, choose TWO of the words to use in a sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

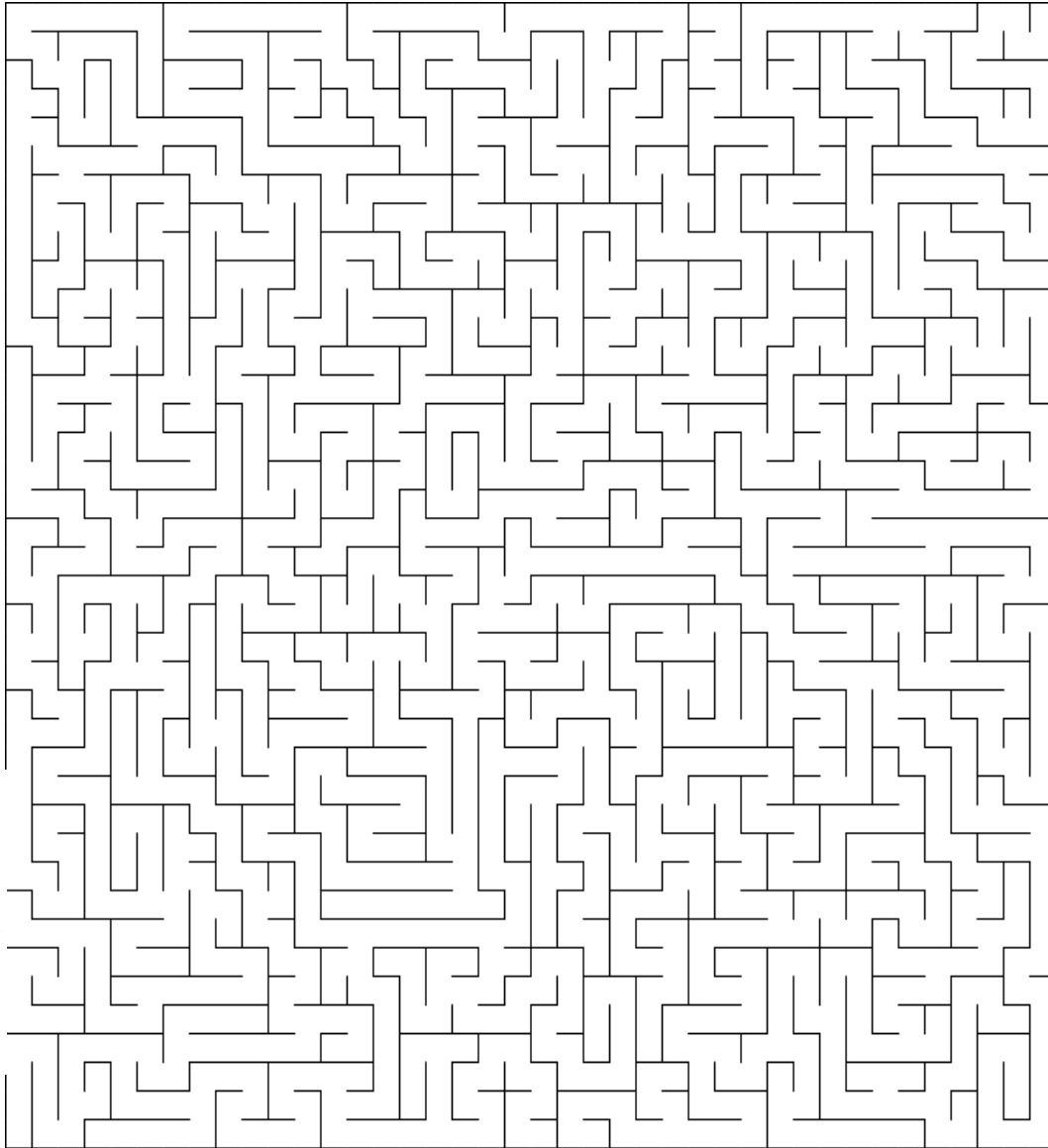
## MAZE PUZZLE

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Find the path between the Valor Star to the Medal of Honor!



## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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M A C A R T H U R D C M W H M  
W S F F L L J E U I Q S A Q O  
Y A K F S L A K T Z N I L D K  
Y O S F I F E I O Y O T K P L  
L T R Y L M Z E A C I O E T G  
C V I K L E J I R O T I R A X  
H O O R N A G F J U A R K S J  
H T M S G S D C H R N T H H U  
W G H M S E R C C A Y A H G T  
Y I A O I W T Y Z G T P O U U  
P O D L M T S N J E V L F X A  
V W H F F R M S I R E T J S X  
V A L O R Q O E U R O Z D Q Z  
Z V O P W L B F N A D R O J A  
E C I F I R C A S T Y U O K U

