

10th Mountain Division Descendants K-12 Education Project

Grade Level - 10

Return to Italy 2003 - Veteran Comments Activity

Introduction: The 10th Mtn. Div. Desc. K-12 Education Project was developed to help our younger members become “engaged” in the story of WWII as experienced by the 10th Mountain Division. Students will have the opportunity to complete an activity at each grade level which will help them better understand the significance of WWII and, in particular, the contributions and sacrifices made by the 10th Mtn. Div. Upon completion of each activity the student will receive an achievement certificate, a patch or medal and recognition in the Blizzard.

The story of the 10th Mtn. Div. is one that must be remembered. It is the hope that by completing these activities, their legacy will continue.

SEMPRE AVANTI!

Background: In the mid 1960’s the National Association began what would be known as their “Return to Italy” trip. Every three years or so veterans, wives, children and friends would travel back to Italy to pay their respects to fallen comrades and to revisit some of the places where they fought. War, though, was not always tragic and many friendships were formed between the soldiers and Italian civilians. Returning to Italy would rekindle these friendships. For the veterans returning memories suppressed for many a year would resurface, sometimes bringing laughter and sometimes bringing tears.

During the 2003 “Viva Italia” trip, videographers, Abbie Kealy and Bill were able to capture the rich legacy of the 10th Mountain Division as only the troopers can tell it. As Abbie notes, “Blending Italy’s natural beauty with interviews from nearly 50 troopers, their anecdotes vividly illuminate the price of peace and the cost of war in very personal terms. From moving ceremonies...lively street dances...battlefield tours...to mountain top memorial services, the journey is an unforgettable tribute to the soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division.”

Directions:

1. Before viewing the 2003 Return to Italy Trip, complete the “Before You Begin” assignment and print the “Thoughts/Impressions/Questions/Connections worksheet.”
2. Go to <https://10thmtndivdesc.org/k-12-education-project-grade-10/> and view the 2003 Return to Italy Trip. As you view the film, fill-in the “Thoughts/Impressions/Questions, Connections” worksheet.
3. Anecdotes and recollections will be made by a number of veterans throughout the DVD. Select any ten anecdotes or recollections of your choosing then:
 - A. Identify the soldier
 - B. His unit (i.e., 87-K)
 - C. Briefly summarize his anecdote/recollection

- D. In a paragraph or two, comment on his anecdote/recollection.
4. Upon Completion, send: the Before You Begin worksheet, the Thoughts/Impressions/Questions/Connections worksheet, and your Anecdote/Recollection paper to:

Val Rios at: vrrios913@aol.com

In the subject line type: 10th Mtn. Div. Desc. – Veteran's Comments Activity
Include the following information with your submission:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home or Cell Phone:

Email Address:

Are you a descendant of a 10th Mountain Division soldier? If yes, what was his name and what unit was he in?

Or, if you prefer, you can mail the above to:

Val Rios

6816 S Maple

Fresno, CA 93725

We would like to include a photo of all students completing activities in the next edition of the 10th Mountain Division Association digital newsletter, the BLIZZARD. Please include a photo of yourself if you would like it submitted to the BLIZZARD.

Thank you! We hope that you enjoyed completing this activity but and please consider completing future grade level activities!

Sincerely,

The Pre-K-12 Education Committee

Christine Finn Corrigan

Meghann Finn

Stanton Mitrano

Val Rios

Before You Begin Questions

Create a Word document and title it, "Before You Begin Questions". Then answer the following questions.

1. When you think of a WWII veteran what comes to mind?
2. What do you think it was like living during WWII?
3. You will be listening to a number of veterans talking about WWII. What do you think they will be talking about?
4. Have you ever been to Italy? If yes, what did you think about your visit? If not, do you have any desire to go there? Why or why not?
5. Look up the word "camaraderie" and in your own words explain what you think it means.

Thoughts, Impressions, Questions and Connections

As you view the movie, jot down some of your thoughts, impressions, questions and connections.

<i>Thoughts and Impressions</i>	<i>Questions?</i>	<i>A connection I can make with my life.</i>
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