AMERICAN HEROES

HEROES COME FROM ALL RACES, FIELDS AND COMMUNITIES
HEROES

- Are people who do something special that stands out.
- They usually don’t act just for themselves, but mostly for others.
- They leave the world better than they found it.
- They don’t always become famous for their accomplishments.
- Sometimes, they don’t get recognized and honored for their contributions for many years.
- They can be found in all races, communities, and nationalities.
• This week, we will be focusing on five Americans Heroes, who have had a tremendous impact on our country.

• Four of them lived a long time ago, while one is still alive today.
OUR FIVE HEROES ARE:

Thomas Edison
Neil Armstrong
Dr. Ben Carson
Thurgood Marshall
Helen Keller
THOMAS EDISON

• He was born in Milam, Ohio on February 11, 1847
• He had trouble in school and his mom decided to teach him at home.
• He liked to do science experiments in his family’s basement.
• He had many jobs starting at a young age. He watched many of his experiments fail, but he never gave up, and kept trying new experiments.
• As an adult, he created more than 1,000 inventions including
  1. The **phonograph** (a machine used to play back music).
  2. The **incandescent lightbulb** (which made it possible for people to light up their homes).
  3. The **motion picture camera** (which allowed people to make movies).
• He died in 1937 in New Jersey.
• Upon his death, people turned off their lights for one minute to thank him for his genius.
NEIL ARMSTRONG

- He was born on August 5th, 1930 in Wapakoneta, Ohio.
- From a young age, he loved airplanes and aviation.
- He went to college, became a Navy pilot, fought in the Korean War, and then came back and graduated college.
- He became an astronaut in 1962 and became the first man to walk on the moon.
- Upon taking his first steps on the moon, he said: “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.”
- After retiring from NASA’s astronaut program, he worked as a college professor, and for an aviation company.
- He died on August 25th, 2012 in Ohio.
THURGOOD MARSHALL

• He was born in 1908 in Baltimore, Maryland.
• After college, he wanted to go to law school at the University of Maryland. The university wouldn't let him because he was black.
• He went to law school at Howard University instead.
• As a lawyer, he argued many important cases before the Supreme Court.
• His most famous case was Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka in 1954.
• He won that case and states were forced to desegregate schools and allow black and white children to go to school together.
• With one case, Thurgood Marshall forever changed the face of education in the United States.
• He was appointed as the first African American to serve as a Supreme Court in 1964.
• He served on the Supreme Court for 24 years, retiring in 1991.
• He died in 1993, at the age of 84 in Maryland.
Dr. Benjamin Carson was born September 18, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Carson had a very bad attitude as a young boy. He was easily angered by others.

After a bad experience, he decided to change his attitude and started to work hard on his schoolwork.

He began to get good grades and realized he loved to learn.

He went to college, and then attended medical school at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Carson used his talents to become a neurosurgeon.

He became famous for separating conjoined twins. Conjoined twins are a set of twins who are joined together at one location of the body.

Dr. Carson is now retired from medicine but he still helps others.

He is an author and motivational speaker, and he has a foundation to help talented students.

He ran for president in 2016, but didn’t win. He now works in President Trump’s administration.
HELLEN KELLER

• She was born in 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama.
• She became very sick when she was a baby, and she lost her sight and her hearing.
• As a child, she sometimes cried and screamed for hours. She threw things and hit people. She felt alone and in darkness.
• Because Helen was hard to control, her parents looked for help. They wanted a teacher who could help her.
• In 1887, Annie Sullivan came to live with Helen and her family as her teacher.
• Helen didn’t understand Annie was there to help her, and fought with her.
• Annie didn’t give up. She continued to teach Helen how to spell words in her hand.
• One day after months of hard work, Helen had a breakthrough. While pumping water, she finally understood that everything had a name.
• Helen continued to work with Annie. She went to college, wrote several books, and helped fight for the rights of people with disabilities.
• Helen died at the age of 87 in 1968 in Connecticut.
Heroes

• They come from all races.

• They didn’t set out to become heroes.

• They became heroes by doing something important for other people.

• Don’t always do something big and noteworthy. Sometimes their accomplishments are small and simple.

• You can be a hero by being a kind, considerate and respectful person to those around you.

• It will make the world a little better, and it will make the people around you a little happier.