

LETTERS HOME



Activity Guide



PlayhouseSquare



LETTERS HOME

Adapted for the stage by William Massolia
Directed by Jennie Cleghorn • Produced by The Griffin Theatre Company

LETTERS HOME tells the true experiences of U.S. Soldiers serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan. Using actual letters written by soldiers and their families, ten actors bring to life the struggles, sacrifices, good and bad times servicemen and women face in the Middle East. **LETTERS HOME** neither supports nor abhors the war; rather, this production introduces the audience to soldiers' lives in a war zone and how they and their families cope.

SOURCE MATERIALS

Voices From The Front: Letters Home From America's Military Family
by Frank Schaeffer

Keeping Faith: A Father-Son Story About Love and the United States Marine Corps
by John Schaeffer and Frank Schaeffer

Faith of Our Sons: A Father's Wartime Diary
by Frank Schaeffer

New York Times article: *The Things They Wrote*, May 30, 2004

HBO documentary: *Last Letters Home*

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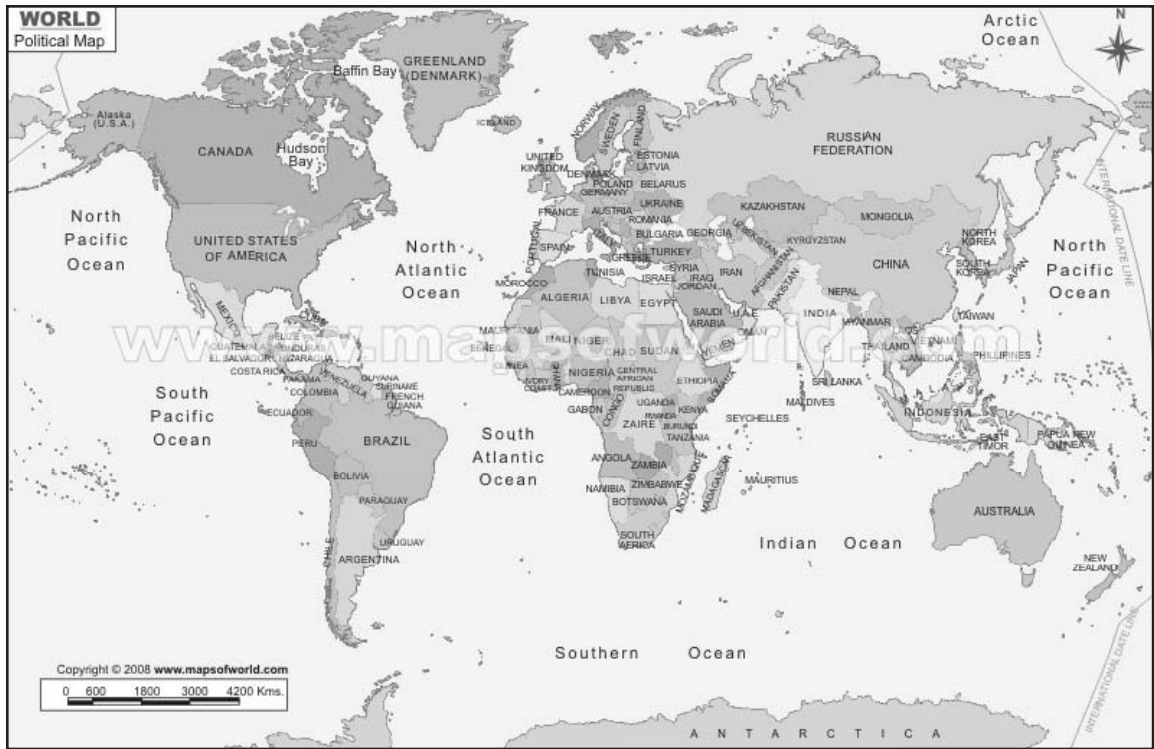


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GEOGRAPHY

LOOK AT THIS MAP OF THE WORLD TO:



Locate Iraq. Name 3 countries that border Iraq.

Locate Iran. Name 3 countries that border Iran.

Locate Afghanistan. Name 2 countries that border Afghanistan.

What continent are Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan located in?

Locate North America.

Locate the state in which YOU live.

Locate the compass rose.

Iraq is which direction from the United States?

What ocean lies between North America and Portugal, United Kingdom and Morocco?

Using the mileage scale, estimate how many Kilometers lie between the United States and Iraq.

SUPPORT THE TROOPS: Write To A Soldier

Whether you believe in war or not, U.S. servicemen and women need inspiration, hope and courage to do their job on behalf of America. In the words of Spc. Michelle Witmer, U.S. Army, "please send letters. I need encouragement." And in the words of SSgt. Aaron White, U.S. Marine Corps, "You have no idea how much your Valentine Day card and letter meant to me. I was really getting pretty down."

You can write or send care packages to a soldier by checking out the following Websites for more information:

- www.anysoldier.com
- www.lettersfromhomeprogram.org
- www.soldiersangels.org
- www.forgottensoldiers.org/index.shtml

The US Post Office gives FREE boxes, labels and tape to send care packages to soldiers overseas. Go to: www.usps.com/supportingourtroops or call 1-800-610-8734 to request *CAREKITO4*. While these *supplies* are free, *postage* must be attached.

WHAT TO SEND TO THE SOLDIERS

Look at the following list and check which to send and which NOT to send to the soldiers. Correct answers can be found at playhousesquare.org/discovery.

Letters	Send_____	Not Send_____
Political Material	Send_____	Not Send_____
Pre-packaged Snacks such as:		
Granola Bars, Jerky, Nuts, Candy, Gum	Send_____	Not Send_____
Tuna in Packets, Not in Cans	Send_____	Not Send_____
Pre-sweetened Drink Mixes	Send_____	Not Send_____
Burned CDs & DVDs	Send_____	Not Send_____
International Phone Cards	Send_____	Not Send_____
Socks	Send_____	Not Send_____
Playing Cards	Send_____	Not Send_____
Firearms	Send_____	Not Send_____
Puzzle Books	Send_____	Not Send_____
Flea Collars	Send_____	Not Send_____
Yoyos	Send_____	Not Send_____
Beanie Babies	Send_____	Not Send_____
Stamps	Send_____	Not Send_____
Body Wash	Send_____	Not Send_____
Shaving Cream In Tubes	Send_____	Not Send_____
Pens	Send_____	Not Send_____
Dental Floss	Send_____	Not Send_____
Lip Balm	Send_____	Not Send_____
Sun Block	Send_____	Not Send_____
Cards with Glitter	Send_____	Not Send_____
Skin Moisturizers	Send_____	Not Send_____
Hand Sanitizer	Send_____	Not Send_____
Home-baked Cookies	Send_____	Not Send_____

WHICH IS LARGER?

How much do you know about the size of an army, platoon, or unit? Guess which is larger, then see if your answers are correct on the chart below.

WHICH MILITARY CONTINGENT IS LARGER?

A Squad or Corps? _____

A Division or Platoon? _____

A Company or Brigade? _____

A Corps or Battalion? _____



SERVICE DIVISION	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL (approx.)	COMPOSITION (approx.)	COMMANDING OFFICER
Army	100,000	2 or more corps	General
Corps	30,000 or more	2 or more divisions	Lieutenant General
Division	15,000 or more	3 brigades	Major General
Brigade	4500 or more	3 or more regiments	Brigadier General
Regiment	1500 or more	2 or more battalions	Colonel
Battalion	700	4 or more companies	Lieutenant Colonel
Company	175	4 platoons	Captain
Platoon	40	4 squads	Lieutenant
Squad	10		Staff Sergeant

SOURCE: www.easternct.edu/personal/faculty/pocock/ranks.htm

MILITARY RANK AND INSIGNIAS

Rank is an official title for an individual's seniority in the military.

Insignia is a badge worn on a uniform to identify rank.

Match up the following ranks with the correct insignia:

USMC United States Marine Corps

1. Lance Corporal (LCpl)

2. Corporal (Cpl)

3. Staff Sergeant (SSgt)

A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.



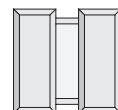
H.



I.



J.



US ARMY

4. Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt)

5. Sergeant (Sgt)

6. Specialist (Spc)

7. Lieutenant Colonel (LtC)

8. Captain (Cpt)

US AIR FORCE

9. Staff Sergeant

10. First Lieutenant (1st Lt)

SOURCE: www.defenselink.mil/specials/insignias/index.html

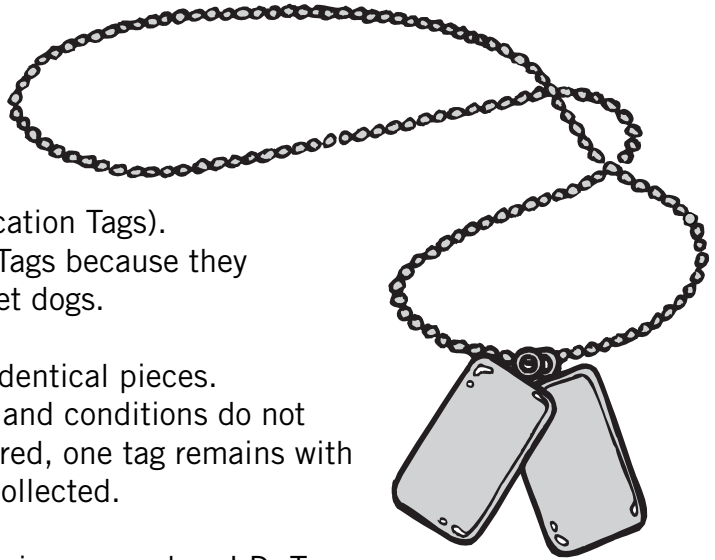
Check your answers at playhousesquare.org/discovery.

DOG TAGS

DOG TAGS are necklaces worn by soldiers for identification. Military Dog Tags are now often referred to as I.D. Tags (Identification Tags). They were originally called *Dog* Tags because they looked similar to tags worn by pet dogs.

These tags are made up of two identical pieces. In the event the wearer is killed and conditions do not permit the casualty to be recovered, one tag remains with the body while the other tag is collected.

Write what information you think is engraved on I.D. Tags. Check playhousesquare.org/discovery to see if you are correct.

A large, rounded rectangular tag with a hole on the left side. The tag is tilted slightly to the right. It has four horizontal lines for writing. The hole is represented by two concentric circles.

2008-09 Discovery Theater Series



Jason and The Argonauts

October

Westfield Insurance Studio Theatre



Letters Home

November

Ohio Theatre



Brady Rymer and The Little Band That Could

November

Allen Theatre



Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny

January

Ohio Theatre



Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

February

Ohio Theatre



Step Afrika!

March

Allen Theatre



Circus INcognitus

March

Ohio Theatre



The Mayhem Poets

May

Ohio Theatre

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