

In Memoriam Organizer

Design a War Memorial

Guiding question: Why and how do humans create war memorials?

Begin to explore the guiding questions by discussing the following questions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which war memorials are familiar to you? • Who creates war memorials? • Where are war memorials placed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do war memorials commemorate? • What forms do war memorials take? • To whom are the monuments important?
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A. Art Historical War Memorials and Battle Monuments

List three well-known war memorials or battle monuments, and give information about each.

Memorial	Place	Purpose	Style/Description

Using visual and historical clues, give the “message” of each monument:

1.

2.

3.

B. Historical Context

Read the handout “A World War II Glider Pilot” and/or view the Powerpoint Presentation. Take notes on the following:

Gordon Chamberlain -

How do you think Chamberlain felt about serving in World War II?

What do you think he chose to be a glider pilot?

How did he feel about his role in the D-Day invasion?

How did he feel about his upcoming role in Operation Varsity?

Combat Glider Program -

How were gliders made?

What was the military role of gliders during World War II?

What were pilots in troop carrier squadrons supposed to do after they landed supplies?

How do you think glider pilots felt about their role?

In which missions did glider pilots participate during World War II?

Operation Varsity -

When and where did Operation Varsity take place?

Why did the Allies want to invade this part of Germany?

What was the role of gliders in Operation Varsity?

Would you call Operation Varsity a success?

C. Commemoration

Discuss the monuments erected by various groups, including the American Battle Monuments Commission, to honor the fallen soldiers of World War II:

- How would you describe the style of each monument?

- Is there a style or theme common to all ABMC monuments?

Discuss the five monuments in place at the Netherlands-American cemetery:

- How would you describe each monument?
- What is the “message” of each monument?
- For whom do you think each monument was designed?

If you were a member of Gordon Chamberlain’s family, would you feel that his sacrifice was adequately commemorated by these memorials? How might you feel about the grave adoption program?

Review and Reflect

Discuss the following questions again in light of your knowledge about World War II and the memorials that commemorate it:

- Who creates war memorials?
- Where are war memorials placed?
- What do war memorials commemorate?
- What forms do war memorials take?
- To whom are the monuments important?