



The Montsec American Memorial, in the Meuse region of France, commemorates the U.S. 1st Army action from September 12 to 16, 1918

Online Collections Database, 2021.169.187, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. Michael St Maur Sheil, National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online.

<h2>What is the purpose of a memorial?</h2>
Recommended Grade Levels: 5-12
Course/Content Area(s): U.S. History

LESSON OVERVIEW:	In this lesson, students will explore the digital exhibition, “In a Shady Meadow Green: American Memorials to WWI”, to come to their own answer to the question: What is the purpose of a memorial? Students will first explore personal, community, and national memorials, and record their observations about these memorials in a chart. Afterwards, students will answer several discussion questions to analyze the variety of memorials, their meanings, and their purposes.
OBJECTIVES:	<i>Students will:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● explore many different forms of memorialization. ● compare and contrast different forms of memorialization. ● decide what they believe is the purpose of a memorial.
STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:	National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) C3 Framework Standards: <p>D2.Civ.1.6-8. Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, interest groups, and the media in a variety of governmental and nongovernmental contexts.</p> <p>D2.Civ.10.9-12. Analyze the impact and the appropriate roles of personal interests and perspectives on the application of civic virtues, democratic principles, constitutional rights, and human rights.</p> <p>D2.Civ.14.6-8. Compare historical and contemporary means of changing societies, and promoting the common good.</p> <p>D2.His.4.9-12. Analyze complex and interacting factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras.</p>
TIME NEEDED:	1 50-minute class
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basic understanding of who went to war during WWI and who nations were allied with ● Basic knowledge of why the United States joined WWI and its role during the conflict
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student access to “In a Shady Meadow Green: American Memorials to WWI” digital exhibition: https://uswwimemorials.theworldwar.org/ ● Memorials Compare and Contrast Chart and Discussion Questions (digital or printed)

LESSON

INTRODUCTION:

1. Project the homepage of "[In a Shady Meadow Green: American Memorials to WWI](#)" and read through the first three pages together.
2. Ask students to predict what similarities and differences they might discover between a personal, community, and national memorial associated with WWI.
3. Ask students to jot down what they currently think about the following question: What is the purpose of a memorial?

DIRECTIONS:

Part 1: Explore

1. Students can complete part 1 as individuals, pairs, or groups (teacher's choice).
2. Provide students with the link to the [starting menu of "In a Shady Meadow Green: American Memorials to WWI"](#).
3. Explain to students that the buttons will take them to different types of memorials, but that all memorials are made to memorialize Americans who served and sacrificed during WWI.
4. Explain to students that the "Menu" button at the top of the digital exhibition can be accessed at any time to take them to a new section.
5. Instruct students to choose and explore three personal memorials, three community memorials, and three national memorials, and record information about each into their provided Memorials Compare and Contrast Chart.

Part 2: Thinking Questions

1. Students should complete part 2 individually.
2. Instruct students that once their charts are complete, they should answer the discussion questions that follow.

POST-ASSESSMENT:

- Students should compare their answer to the question, "What is the purpose of a memorial?" from before and after their exploration of the digital exhibition.
- Ask students to share what changed and what stayed the same between their answers, and why that might be.

EXTENSION:

- Ask students what they might do if they were asked to create a memorial to WWI.
- Have students sketch a design and label the meaning of its various parts.
- Have students write a brief explanation of their memorial and why they decided to create one that looks like it does.

MODIFICATIONS/ACCOMMODATIONS

- Allow students to work together to complete the chart