



Press clipping encouraging fundraising to build the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, MO, 1919.

Online Collections Database, 1938.167.2, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online.

Memory and Civic Responsibility

Recommended Grade Levels: 5-8

Course/Content Area(s): Civics, Community, U.S. History

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LESSON OVERVIEW:	In this lesson, students will explore the connections between civic responsibility and memory. In 1919, the Kansas City community came together to fund the creation of a memorial to those who served and died during the Great War. Their civic mindedness led to the creation of what is now the National WWI Museum and Memorial. This lesson encourages students to consider what they think is important about memory and what actions they think are worth taking as members of their community, all while analyzing primary sources and collecting evidence to support arguments.
OBJECTIVES:	<i>Students will:</i>
	• Examine the role of memorials within a community • Examine the role of a community in memorializing actions of community members • Create a poster/social media post to encourage civic action towards a local cause
STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:	National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) C3 Framework Standards: D2.Civ.2.6-8. Explain specific roles played by citizens (such as voters, jurors, taxpayers, members of the armed forces, petitioners, protesters, and office-holders). D2.Civ.7.6-8. Apply civic virtues and democratic principles in school and community settings. D2.Civ.8.6-8. Analyze ideas and principles contained in the founding documents of the United States, and explain how they influence the social and political system. D2.Civ.10.6-8. Explain the relevance of personal interests and perspectives, civic virtues, and democratic principles when people address issues and problems in government and civil society.
TIME NEEDED:	1-2 45-minute class periods
INTERDISCIPLINARY:	Art and design
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE:	Students should have at least a basic understanding of: • WWI history ○ Causes ○ Scale of destruction and casualties ○ End of the war • The United States' role in WWI
MATERIALS NEEDED:	• <u>Memorials and Civic Action PPT</u>

	• Copies of the <i>Primary Source Analysis sheet</i> • Copies (digital or physical) of the <i>primary sources</i> • Copies of the <i>My Civic Responsibilities sheet</i>
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LESSON

PRE-ASSESSMENT/INTRODUCTION/HOOK:

1. Project the *Memorials and Civic Action* PPT
2. Engage students with the opening questions (slide 2):
 - a. What responsibilities do people within a community have?
 - b. What are some ways that people within a community can act on these responsibilities?
 - c. Would these responsibilities change if something really bad happened, like a war or natural disaster? If yes, how so?
3. After hosting a discussion on these questions, explain to students that during WWI, Americans were asked to take on many responsibilities. Show students the example posters (slide 3).
4. Then explain that after the war, many people wanted to ensure that people's actions would not be forgotten. Ask students (slide 4):
 - a. What are some ways that people could protect the memories of the people who were courageous and helped others during a war?
 - b. Do you think that people within a community, the government of that community, or both, should be responsible for protecting those memories? Why?

DIRECTIONS:

Establish Background Information

1. Show students the video that tells the history of the National WWI Museum and Memorial (slide 5)
 - a. Video can also be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmG38AKNL1w>
 - b. A written history can be found here: <https://theworldwar.org/explore/our-story>
 - c. The value of \$2.5 million in the present is ever changing. It's recommended that you search for the present-day conversion to give students a clear idea of how much money was raised in those ten days.
2. Ask comprehension question: Who was responsible for the creation of the National WWI Museum and Memorial?

Historical Connections and Primary Source Exploration

1. Provide students with the *Primary Source Analysis* sheet and either digital or physical copies of the Primary Source Collection.
 - a. Direct links to the objects in the Online Collections Database can be found in Appendix A
2. Explain to students that they will be exploring a series of primary sources that show the history of the Museum and Memorial beginning in 1919.
3. Students should complete the chart by exploring the primary sources to answer two questions (slide 6):
 - a. What did people do to create the Museum and Memorial and keep it open since 1926?

- b. What has the Museum and Memorial provided for people, including the community, veterans, and their families?
4. Students will need to connect their answers directly to the evidence used by filling out the appropriate sections of their chart.
5. Finally, students will answer a few debrief questions at the end of their provided sheet.

POST-ASSESSMENT:

Civic Responsibilities and Taking Informed Action

1. Ask students to consider the following questions (slide 7):
 - a. What are things your community needs?
 - b. What might the people in your community be able to work together to create, change, or affect?
2. Instruct students to conduct research and note taking, using the *My Civic Responsibilities* sheet (slide 8):
 - a. Students will search history and explore modern challenges within their community – consider in advance what you want students to explore as “community” (school, district, neighborhood, local, state, national, global)
 - b. Students will then choose a focus topic and conduct research, so that they can make an informed decision on their thoughts
3. Instruct students to then take their informed decision and create a poster, flyer, or social media post (including an image) that raises awareness and acts as a call to action for their community, just as the Liberty Memorial Association called on the people of Kansas City to contribute to the building of the Museum and Memorial back in 1919 (slide 9).
 - a. Examples: a memorial to a historic event or place (celebratory or commemorative), calls for environmental or social change, or calls for building things the community needs like parks, libraries, community centers, etc.
4. Student creations should include:
 - a. An explanation of the issue
 - b. A clear “call to action”
 - c. Imagery to draw attention

MODIFICATIONS/ACCOMMODATIONS

- The lesson can be altered to include more complex language and questions for older students
- The number of primary sources can be reduced for time and simplicity
- To alter for students below 5th grade, provide students with a variety of topics to look through and choose from for their “Taking Informed Action” step.
- Students can work alone, in pairs, or in groups
- If there is a need to avoid contemporary issues for any reason, restrict the topic to a celebration, commemoration, or memorialization of the past

Appendix A: Links to Primary Sources in the Online Collections Database:

1. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=85c4b4b6-8fd2-4b56-b6a1-ba1e38e33862>
2. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=413c60e6-cf11-45b9-a83d-6e5973438572>
3. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=9f48e819-b0c5-4fec-a262-8ac253ec0746>
4. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=1a245b23-6574-4c1a-b219-7fd3c87f7c02>
5. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=79c1389f-b77e-4c34-bfeb-68f0b7fe5c71>
6. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=66ec4926-f098-4a9b-8cbb-3193ccb59f95> (page 1)
7. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=66ec4926-f098-4a9b-8cbb-3193ccb59f95> (page 2)
8. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=87de6a64-d224-40ce-bde1-981fd16766b5>
9. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=8f715118-5eeb-4af6-888c-246a12f9c6e5>
10. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=fbd8c52b-b817-4e8b-b554-ca9a717dab50>
11. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=576e3b9e-ecf9-4c32-b79c-44e46e3bee1d>
12. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=d593066e-5270-4ef8-ba8e-ccdd6e311d5f>
13. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=4caba9f3-5bfc-4675-ac7f-b8a165bdcf85>
14. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=a3fd8319-b674-4acb-b8f1-7c2cd8f1a4cc>
15. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=9cd4f74a-eff7-49eb-b981-aa1bd074e7af>
16. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=fd5071c0-bf06-4f2f-8a95-fd55efe888f6>
17. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=b4dc2ef2-f62b-45da-8bd7-bac31328678b>
18. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=8fa76836-18e4-45b4-87c0-898b842b6867>
19. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=6792cfe6-3688-49b0-8f24-5187f686e9dd>
20. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=c23e6b29-d67f-4f4c-b3f9-ff7745377db8>
21. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=f0f047b2-c0cb-4e05-8cd8-072cbd629e0c>

22. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=8d53a7f2-6936-4f40-b133-672a0e0795e7>
23. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=9f69f63f-9968-4a1d-b443-927d8d53295a>
24. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=df68f794-0301-4095-92d9-83eebb8df8db>
25. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=8267ff83-e1f1-43fc-a790-ac5217a4a3ec>
26. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=f024002d-6c1b-4dd3-b2be-4ebeeee9eb58>
27. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=1e1d4c4e-e511-40a9-98d0-daa4666e60de>
28. <https://collections.theworldwar.org/argus/final/Portal/Default.aspx?component=AAAS&record=f7804704-61f6-43fb-bf7e-e474549b3ef0>