

5. Great artists and war memorials



Background: This lesson forms part of a series of six art lessons looking at the work of great artists who designed war memorials to commemorate the fallen during the wave of memorialisation which followed World War I. It has been created to increase pupils' awareness of different kinds of design and the work of great artists including the architects Baker, Blomfield, Lorimer and Lutyens and the sculptor Toft. Teachers may choose to focus on one of these artists through the series of lessons particularly if they designed a war memorial nearby. Equally a selection of work from several of the artists may be used. Pupils will learn to incorporate design features and symbols used by some of the great artists studied in their own war memorial design.

Suitable for: Key stage 2

Learning objective: Pupils will learn:

- To produce a final war memorial design incorporating the features used by great artists

Learning outcomes: Pupils will be able to:

- Use paint or pastels to produce a final piece depicting a war memorial in a local setting
- Include design features used by the great artists studied in their own design
- Talk about the meaning behind the design features and why they have chosen to include them
- Review their own work

Resources:

- Printed images of war memorials designed by the chosen artist(s)
- Pupils preparatory sketches from lesson 4
- Painting materials or pastels
- Photographs of local area e.g. local church, town hall, town centre, village green

Introduction:

- Look at where war memorials are situated locally as well as where some of the war memorials designed by the chosen artist(s) were erected. Locations may include a churchyard, an open space such as a park or village green, outside a town hall, in the town centre or in a school
- You may wish to discuss with pupils why these locations were chosen as suitable places for the war memorial
- Ask pupils to think about the area surrounding the school or the town/village where they live. It may be useful to have images or use an online mapping tool available for this part of the session. Ask pupils if they have any suggestions of where would be a good place for a war memorial to be located in the local area. They may suggest where the local war memorial is situated, in which case ask pupils to consider if there are any other suitable locations. What makes these places good locations?
- Do pupils think there are any locations which would not be suitable?

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Suggested teaching points and activities:

Reviewing the preparatory sketches

- Remind pupils that they have been commissioned to design a war memorial by the local war memorial committee. Pupils should look at their preparatory sketches from lesson 4 and consider which is most appropriate for their final design
- The final design will be created using paint or pastel (or other appropriate medium) and will also show where the memorial will be located
- Pupils should give some thought to where in the village or town they would choose to erect the war memorial

Designing a war memorial

- Pupils to create their final war memorial design using the art materials available to them
- Remind pupils they have two sessions (if this is the case) so they should take their time. It may be that they focus on the design of the war memorial this session and then add in the area where the memorial will be located next session

Conclusion:

- Pupils should review their own work to establish what needs to be finished or improved next lesson. Questions to focus their review may include:
 - What has gone well?
 - What symbols have I included?
 - What do these symbols mean? Or what do these symbols tell people who look at the war memorial?
 - What do I still need to do to complete my design?

Support/extension:

The activities in this lesson plan are suggestions only and teachers will need to adapt the lesson to take account of the needs of their class.

Ideas for further work:

There are many opportunities to extend this lesson and link it with other areas of the curriculum:

- History – It may be possible to look at parish or local records from 1919 onwards to see if pupils are able to find out any further information about discussions and meetings which took place about the creation of the local memorial. This would provide an opportunity for pupils to look at evidence from a primary source. They may be able to view minutes from meetings, find out how the memorial was funded, if the land where it stands was donated or purchased, the cost, and how the type of memorials and design was chosen. War Memorials Online www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk, IWM's War Memorials Register www.iwm.org.uk/memorials and, if the memorial is listed, The National Heritage List for England <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list> may also be able to give more information about the history of the memorial

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