

# Activity sheet: Design a memorial



War Memorials Trust

On this sheet you will:

- Find out about different war memorial designs and why there are lots of different ones.
- Create a design for a new war memorial.

## War memorial designs

There are around **100,000** war memorials in the UK and each one is **unique** because they commemorate different people and show the feelings of different communities.

There are, however, some **types** of war memorial that have often been **popular** choices. You can find out more about these by looking at the pictures of different war memorials on our website at [www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/gallery](http://www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/gallery), or on our 'Types of war memorial' information sheet at [www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/general/7-10](http://www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/general/7-10).

You can see from these that there war memorials have **varied** and sometimes **unusual** designs. We often think of war memorials as always being a 'traditional' stone monument or cross but we can see that this is not always the case – **any object** can be a war memorial.

As well as what type it is, another key feature of a war memorial's design is the **inscription** (the writing on it). This is

## War memorial inscriptions

important because it tells us **who** is commemorated on the memorial and sums up the **feelings** of the people who created it, or carries a **message** for people reading it. There are also photographs of inscriptions in our website Gallery and there is more information about how they are written in our 'War memorial epitaphs' activity sheet.

You can now **design** your memorial - this could be either to remember a war and those involved, or a memorial to another person or event. Your group leader may have suggestions of suitable things to use

## Designing a war memorial

in your design. You can use the pictures in our Gallery to help you.

Some **things to consider** in your design are:

- What **type** of memorial is suitable? This might depend on who or what you are remembering. If it is to remember a lot of people, a larger monument might be better. Or you might want it to be something like a picture or a window that includes images that remind you of the person or event – this can be a bit more personal.
- What other **features, pictures** or **symbols** will you include on your memorial when you have decided on the design? For example, you might have chosen a plaque to be put in a particular place as your design but you also need to think about what you should include on this to commemorate what you want the memorial to be for. Is there a special image associated with this, like a **school** or **county badge** or symbol? Or do you want to include a traditional symbol of commemoration like a **poppy** or a **wreath**?
- Are you going to **make** the design (ask your leader about this)? If so take this into account in your design, remembering some things are easier to make than others. If it is not possible to make your memorial you could still **draw** your design to show your ideas.