

War Memorials Trust's ideas for the Local Knowledge Activity Badge



War Memorials Trust

On this sheet you will learn:

- How to carry out different types of war memorial activities
- How some tasks involving war memorials could be used to complete your Local Knowledge Activity Badge

What you need to do

To get your Local Knowledge Activity Badge you need to do **three** tasks from a list of six. On this sheet we have listed the tasks where you could use a **war memorial** project to complete it, and our suggestions for what you could do for these tasks.

1.a. Find out about a famous person, past or present, who lived in or near where you live

If you live somewhere connected to someone who became **famous** because of a war there may well be a war memorial commemorating them and giving **information** about why they are famous. You will probably need to use some other sources of information, as well as the memorial, to find out about them.

Some things to find about them could be:

- Their **name**, when they were **born**, and when and where they **died**.
- Where they **lived** in your area and when they lived there.
- About their **family** and their life in the place where you live.
- **Why** they are famous
- What reminders of them are in the area?

Information about how to **research** people named on war memorials is given in our 'Researching the people named on war memorials' information sheet. All our information and activity sheets for your age group can be **downloaded** from our **Learning website** at www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/general/7-10.

1. b. Visit and find out about a famous building, monument, earthworks or other place of historical interest.

Most cities, towns or villages have a war memorial and many of these were created after the First World War or the Second World War. They can therefore give us a lot of **information** about who lived in the area, was affected by the war and what happened to them. You could complete this task by **visiting** the memorial and finding out about it and the people named on it. Use our 'Looking at a war memorial' activity sheet to help you during your visit.

Some things to find out could be:

- **Where** is the memorial? Was there a particular reason for it being put there?
- Which **war/wars** does it remember?
- What is the memorial **made** from? What does it look like – does it have any important **features** or images and symbols that tell you anything about it and the people it remembers?
- How many **people** are named on the memorial? What information is given about them (e.g. their age or rank)?

Can you find out more about the people named on the memorial? (See War Memorials Trust's 'Researching the people named on war memorials' information sheet for tips on how to do this.)



St Athan war memorial, Glamorgan. © St Athan Community Council, 2006

2. Talk to someone who has lived in your local area for a long time. Find out about what life was like when they were young and what changes they have seen in your local area over the intervening years

You will need to find out about a **variety** of things for this task, not just the war memorial. However, a **local war memorial** and life during the war could be one of the things that you ask about when you are looking at changes to the area over time.

Remember that the First World War was a very long time ago and no-one will be able to remember that time. However, you will possibly find someone locally who **remembers** the Second World War and more recent events. The amount of information you find out about the war memorial will therefore depend on what type of memorial it is, when it was built and whether anything has happened to it since.

You could ask if the person you are talking to remembers the war memorial being **built** or having extra information put on it after later wars. You could also find out how the memorial is **used** by the community and how this has changed over time – is it used during Remembrance services? How have these changed? Has the memorial ever had any repairs, been moved or been re-dedicated? Why was this?

Draw a map of your area and mark on it places of interest

This is also a task where you will not be able to use the war memorial to complete the whole thing, but the memorial could be part of what you do. You could find out **where** the war memorial is in your area (remember there might be more than one) and mark it on your map. **War Memorials Online** is a website where you can search for war memorials in your area and see them marked on a map – see www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/projects/wmonline for information on how to use the website.

With other Cub Scouts, go on a short walk in your local area. Point out to the Leader any features of interest

While you are on your walk point the war memorial out to your Leader. If you have found out something about it (see suggestions above) you can also **tell** your Leader something about the memorial. Again, you will also need to point out and know about other things but the war memorial could help you achieve this task.



Blackmoor war memorial, Hampshire © War Memorials Trust, 2010.

Summary

- Some tasks for the Local Knowledge Activity badge could be achieved with a war memorial project.
- You could interview someone in your area who knows a lot about the memorial, go out and find the memorial, and learn about famous people remembered on the memorial.