

A MEMORIAL TO 9/11

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Identify historical people who exhibit good citizenship and summarize their contributions to history
2. Use critical thinking skills to interpret and create visuals

TEKS: SS 3.11 (C), 3.17(E), 4.3 (B), 4.5 (C), 4.17 (D), 4.21 (C), 5.5 (B, C), 5.17 (E), 5.24 (C)

Vocabulary: terrorist, memorial

Materials Needed: internet access, dictionaries, paper plates/cups, paper, tape, straws, craft sticks, miscellaneous craft supplies

Teaching Strategy:

1. Ask students for definitions of “memorial,” reminding them that the root word is “memory.” Expand this introduction by having students use dictionaries or thesauruses to help define the concept.
2. Ask students if they have ever visited a memorial. Commonly seen memorials in Washington, DC include the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Wall, and World War II Memorial. Display pictures of these memorials, included in the accompanying PowerPoint slides. Note any quotes or special characteristics of each.
3. (Optional) Assign groups of students to conduct further research on prominent memorials to discover specific details of each.
4. Discuss how a memorial honors a person or event by helping people to remember the important things about the person or event, even long after the person lived or event happened.
5. Briefly discuss the events of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, without including details that would be disturbing to the students. A brief summary is included with this lesson plan.
6. Inform students that a new memorial is being opened in New York City on September 12, 2011, to honor those who were killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. (A private opening for the families of 9/11 victims is scheduled for September 11, 2011.)
7. Show pictures and descriptions of the new memorial, some of which are included on the accompanying PowerPoint slides. Others can be found at the memorial website, www.911memorial.org including a virtual tour. (Also located at that website is an excellent page about how to talk to children about the events of 9/11.)
8. Emphasizing the importance of honoring an event or person, brainstorm with the class what a memorial to your school, town, or a

famous citizen would look like. This might be a person famous for sports, art, music, or helpful deed. As you brainstorm structure and elements of the design be sure that each aspect of the “memorial” represents something.

9. Divide the students into groups of 4 or 5. Let them decide on a famous person or event to create a memorial for, such as a person or historical event recognized in the social studies TEKS for your grade.
10. Distribute paper, pipe cleaners, paper cups and/or plates, craft sticks, markers, straws, tape, etc. from which to make the memorial. Allow time for each group to make their memorial, then to display each and tell the class about it. If the design includes lights, plants or water, students may tell about it.
11. Assess each memorial based on how much information may be gleaned from the memorial or what is learned from it.

Extension for G/T:

Students may use the www.911memorial.org website to learn more about the 9/11 museum that will open in 2012 and make a poster showing pictures of some of the more remarkable artifacts that will be included in that museum.

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On September 11, 2001, nineteen terrorists hijacked four commercial U.S. airliners, deliberately crashing two of the planes into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and a third plane into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. After learning of the other attacks, passengers and crewmembers on the fourth plane attempted to gain control of the plane, and the plane was crashed into an empty field in western Pennsylvania.

Nearly 3000 people were killed on that day, the single largest loss of life from a foreign attack on American soil.