

History:

First World War - Lesson 2 (War Memorials)

Overview

First World War Memorials to those who died and why they are considered important.

Purpose

To consider the importance of war memorials.

Objectives

To persuade people about the value of war memorials.

Lesson plan

Activity	Time	Resources	Outcomes
Look at story of recent destruction of a war memorial. Some initial reactions about how bad such a crime is compared to other crimes.	 15 min	Copy of story.	Some oral comments from pupils in class discussion.
Look at pictures of Salford memorials. What can we learn from these? Comment on numbers, organisations, decoration etc.	 10 min	Memorial pictures.	In pairs, pupils make brief written points.
Persuading another young person not to vandalise a war memorial. Write a speech about what you would say.	 25 min	Use all previous resources for guidance.	Persuasive speech or dialogue written down or recording of oral version.
Should we continue to preserve First World War memorials?	 10 min	Use all previous resources for guidance.	All to have written at least one argument for, one against and a conclusion.

Additional Activities

For lessons longer than an hour or for extension activities to continue the theme into another lesson or homework, the following ideas may be useful.

Activity 1

Research other stories from newspaper websites of occasions where war memorials have been damaged. Note the main points made by people who condemn the damage – why do they say that this kind of crime is so bad?

Activity 2

If you were designing a war memorial to honour the Salford soldiers who served in the First World War, what would you include in the design and what words would you put on it (known as the inscription)? You could refer back to some of the cards showing heroic deeds from the first lesson.