

# A Walk to Remember to Never Forget

DEVELOPED BY DR. GREG BORCHARDT

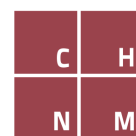


## Guiding Question:

Why is it important to “never forget” war?



NHD  
NATIONAL  
HISTORY DAY



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## Overview

Students will visit the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery and take the Memorial Walk in order to compare and contrast the memorials from five major wars. After they visit each memorial, they will complete a Venn Diagram contrasting two of the five. Finally, students will create a memorial flag to commemorate all the wars in which the United States has fought.

## Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- Evaluate memorials to war and explain the significance of the phrase “never forget”;
- Analyze each of the five major war memorials by looking at their color, size, materials used to build, words, images, and symbols;
- Compare and contrast two of the five memorials to major wars; and
- Design a memorial flag to American wars by creating a product independently to present to the group using the concept “never forget.”



*I wrote this lesson because it is important for students to think critically about war and memorializing war. The phrase “never forget” was a central theme in the monuments in this cemetery and it made me think about how and why we should never forget war and the high price it cost us as a nation. The graves represent individuals and their contributions to war, but the memorials represent a bigger idea as it relates to our country and our memory of war.*

— Dr. Greg Borchardt

**Borchardt teaches at Lorena High School in Lorena, Texas.**

# Standards Connections

## Connections to Common Core

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7** Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9** Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

## Materials

- Arthur Danto Quote
- War Memorial Observation and Recording Sheet
- Comparing Two Memorials Venn Diagram
- White paper and markers, colored pencils, or crayons to create a remembrance flag

## Activity Preparation

- Make one copy of the Arthur Danto quote for the teacher.
- Make one copy of the War Memorial Observation and Recording Sheet for each student.
- Make one copy of the Comparing Two Memorials Venn Diagram for each pair of students.
- Gather paper and markers, colored pencils, or crayons.



# Procedure

## Activity One: Memorial Walk (30 minutes)

- Distribute one copy of the War Memorial Observation and Recording Sheet to each student.
- Read the Arthur Danto quote to the students and lead a short discussion about what it means. Tell students to think about its meaning as they make the memorial walk through the cemetery.
- Tell students that they will be using the War Memorial Observation and Recording Sheet during the memorial walk. Explain that they should make observations and record characteristics at each of the five memorials: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq-Afghanistan.
- Show students the beginning of the walk, explaining that it begins at the Iraq-Afghanistan memorial and ends with the POW-MIA flag.

## Activity Two: Compare Two Memorials (15 minutes)

- Assign students into pairs.
- Distribute one copy of the Comparing Two Memorials Venn Diagram to each pair of students.
- Tell students that they will compare and contrast two of the five memorials they observed using the Venn diagram and the information they added to their War Memorial Observation and Recording Sheet.
  - Direct students to label the circles so that each circle represents one of the memorials.
  - List the characteristics that can be found in both memorials in the area of the circles that overlap.
  - List the characteristics that are different at each memorial in the areas of the circles that do not overlap.
- Read the the Arthur Danto quote again. Ask students, *does it have new meaning after taking the walk?*
- Ask students, *why should we “never forget” war?*

## Assessment

- Distribute white paper and markers, colored pencils, or crayons and have students create a memorial flag to commemorate all the wars the U.S. has fought. This flag should contain symbols, a slogan/motto, and clearly send the message “never forget.”
  - Students should incorporate colors, symbols, and text to commemorate past wars and honor those soldiers and civilians who sacrificed their lives for the United States.
- The Never Forget Memorial Flag Rubric can be used to evaluate the flag.

## Methods for Extension

- Students can research what was happening in the United States during each of the wars represented by the memorials including: World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan. Consider these guiding questions.
  - What was life for the average American like during this conflict?
  - How did the war affect the culture, economy, and politics of the time?
  - How did Americans treat these veterans when they returned from war?
  - Is there a difference between the phrases “never forget” and “always remember?”
- Students can create an acrostic using each letter in the phrase never forget.
- Students can write a letter to a local veterans’ organization explaining why we should “never forget” the price paid to ensure our freedom and include a note of thanks for their service.
- Students can create an original song, rap, or poem about the price of war and how important it is that we “never forget” that we live in a free country because of the sacrifice of others to ensure our freedom.
- Students can create a memorial to veterans of all wars emphasizing the idea that we should “never forget” what they did for all of us.

**“We erect monuments  
so that we shall always  
remember, and build  
memorials so that we  
shall never forget.”**

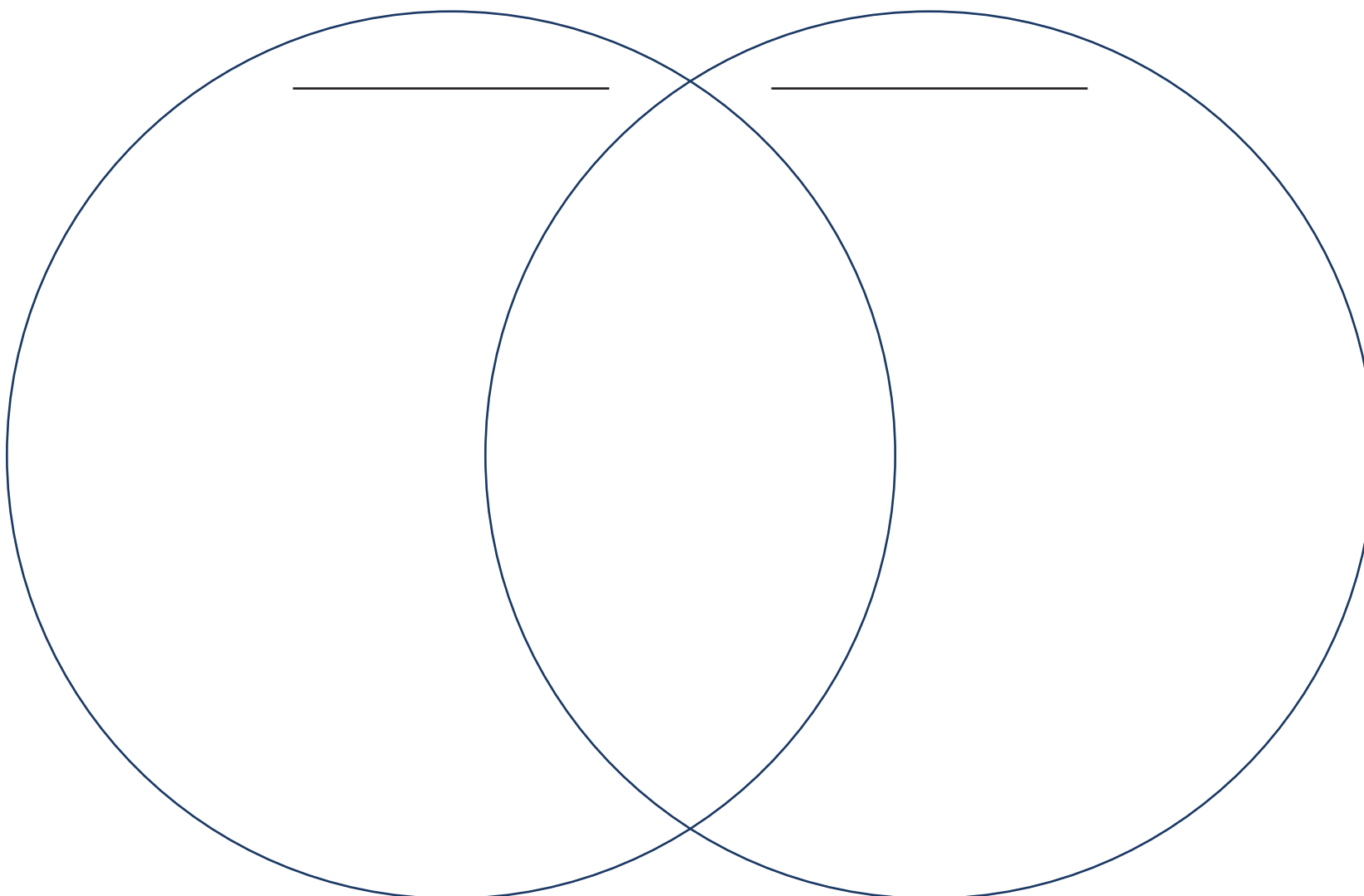
**-Arthur Danto**

# War Memorial Observation and Recording Sheet

World War I	World War II
Color: Shape: Size: Words: Images: Symbols: Other:	Color: Shape: Size: Words: Images: Symbols: Other:
Korean War	Vietnam
Color: Shape: Size: Words: Images: Symbols: Other:	Color: Shape: Size: Words: Images: Symbols: Other:
Iraq - Afghanistan	Notes:
Color: Shape: Size: Words: Images: Symbols: Other:	

## VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

# Comparing Two Memorials Venn Diagram



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## VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

National Cemetery Administration | American Battle Monuments Commission | National History Day | Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media



# Never Forget Memorial Flag Rubric

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Emerging
<b>Design</b>	<p>The design is neat and its theme easily explained.</p> <p>The design is original.</p>	<p>The design is easily explained.</p> <p>The design is original.</p>	<p>Some elements of design are present.</p> <p>The design lacks originality.</p>	<p>The design is not appealing.</p> <p>The design is not original.</p>
<b>Explanation of the Flag</b>  <b>Use of Symbols/Color</b>	<p>Symbols and color enhance the theme in order to make it clear to viewer.</p>	<p>Symbols and color make the theme clear to viewer.</p>	<p>Some symbols and color are used, but the theme is still not clear.</p>	<p>No use of symbols or color.</p>
<b>Clear Message</b>	<p>The theme is evident and easily explained just by looking at it.</p>	<p>The theme is evident with a some explanation.</p>	<p>The theme is somewhat evident, but it requires explanation to get the message.</p>	<p>The theme is not identified or explained at all.</p>
<b>Overall presentation</b>	<p>The flag's message is clearly explained visually.</p> <p>The flag is appealing, neat and original.</p>	<p>The flag's message is explained visually.</p> <p>Flag is neat and original.</p>	<p>The flag's message is somewhat explained visually.</p> <p>Flag is neat but not original.</p>	<p>The flag's message is not explained visually.</p> <p>Flag is not neat or original.</p>