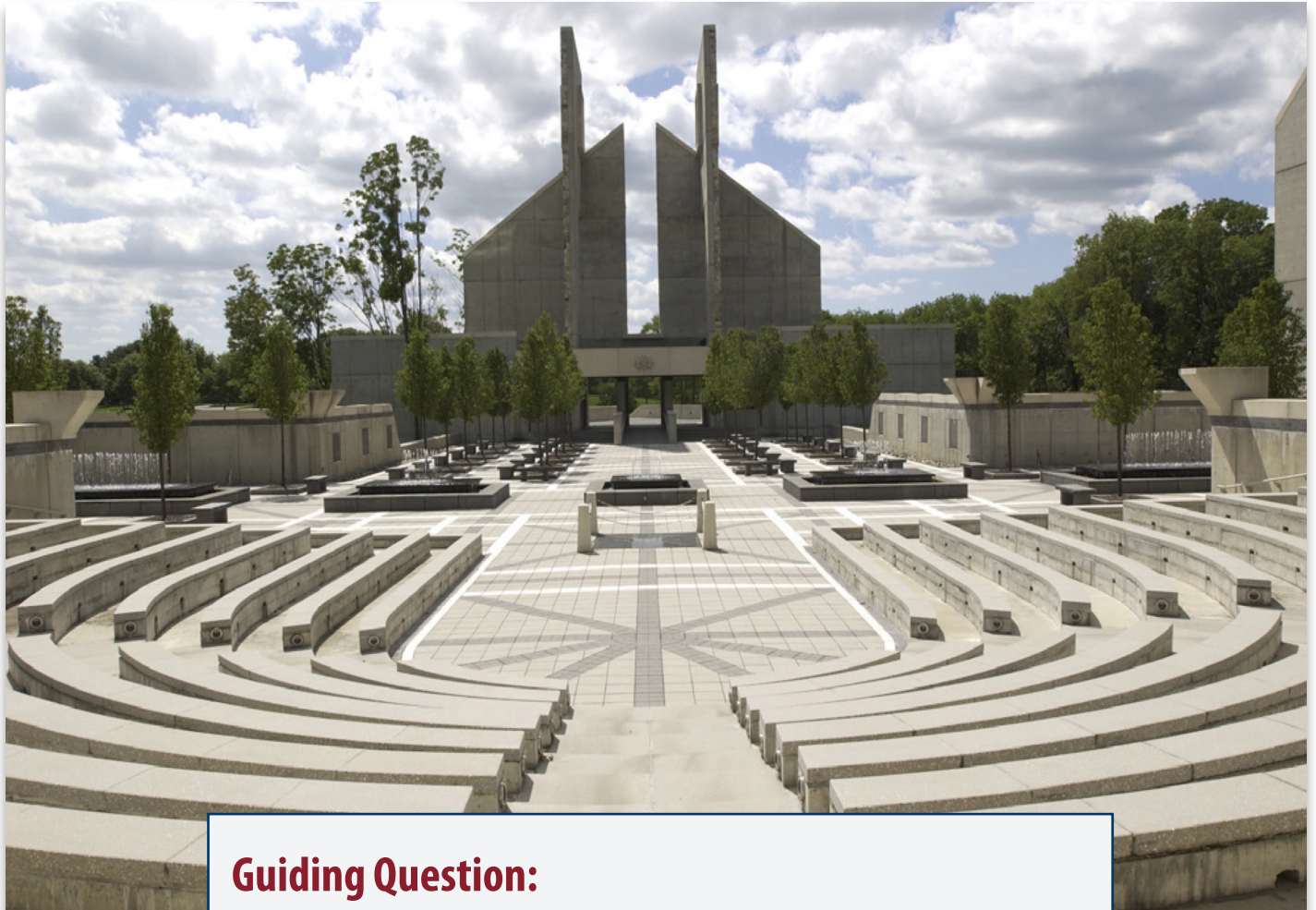


# Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial

DEVELOPED BY ALISON BROWNING



## Guiding Question:

How does the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial guide visitors to reflect on sacrifice, service, and battle?



## Overview

Using the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial as a primary source, students will explore symbolism and memorial design. Students will make connections to soldiers and service through the Memorial. Also, students will be asked to identify and analyze specific elements of the Memorial.

## Objectives

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

- Describe how each branch of military service is represented in the memorial;
- Make connections between various conflicts and the memorial; and
- Analyze how various elements of the memorial guide visitors to reflect on service and sacrifice.



*The Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery is a beautiful and austere memorial. The thought, time, and energy that went into designing and building this memorial is humbling. I want students to genuinely reflect on this striking memorial and what it means to sacrifice and serve in the U.S. military. Also, I want students to think about what decisions are made when designing a memorial.*

— Alison Browning

**Browning teaches at J.P. McCaskey High School Campus in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.**

## Spotlight: Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

Indiantown Gap derives its name from the various Native American communities that resided in this region of Pennsylvania. The first inhabitants were Susquehannocks, an Iroquois tribe first encountered by Europeans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1976, a section of Fort Indiantown Gap was selected as the national cemetery for the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania donated land for the 677-acre site to the Veterans

# Standards Connections

## Connections to Common Core

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.3** Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

# Documents Used

## Primary Sources

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/maps/IndiantownGap813.pdf>

Photograph, Captain Moore, *Cathedral of Armentieres*, 1918

National Archives and Records Administration (31484011)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/31484011>

Photograph, Lieutenant Schoedsack, *American Graves on the Southside of Church*, 1919

National Archives and Records Administration (157381)

Photograph, *French Ruins*, 1919

National Archives and Records Administration (55166567)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/55166567>

Photograph, *Home Again*, 1919

National Archives and Records Administration (31483993)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/31483993>

## Secondary Sources

*The Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Brochure*

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

Pennsylvania Department of Veterans' Affairs

<https://www.dmva.pa.gov/Documents/Commonly%20Used%20Forms/25247%20DMVA%20Vet%20memorial%20V4.pdf>

Veteran Profile, Yeoman First Class Helen Whittaker

National Cemetery Administration

<https://www.cem.va.gov/legacy/>

## Materials

- Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial worksheet
- Pens or pencils
- Map of Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

## Activity Preparation

- Make one copy of the map of Indiantown Gap National Cemetery for educator use.
- Make one copy of the Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial worksheet for each student.
- Explain to students that the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial is a solemn place and should be treated with respect.

# Procedure

## Activity One: Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial (40 minutes)

- Seat students in the Amphitheater of the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial.
- Hand out one Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial worksheet to each student.
  - Students may work in partners or small groups at the teacher's discretion.
- Explain the directions to the students.
  - Students will have 30 minutes to walk around the memorial and write their answers to the questions on their Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial worksheets.
- Bring students back together in the Amphitheater.
- Discuss student responses to the last two questions.

## Assessment

- Discuss student responses to the last two questions.
  - Make sure to address the last two questions as a group:
    - What element of the monument had the biggest impact on you? Why?
    - How does the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial guide visitors to reflect on sacrifice, service, and battle?
- Collect and review student responses on the worksheet.

## Methods for Extension

- Students could do further research on the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial. For example, students could research the architect, the plaques around the memorial, etc.
- Students could complete the worksheet by taking photographs to help answer the questions and add commentary later.
- Students could look for other pictures of war torn buildings using the National Archives or other research engines.
- Students could research other veterans' memorials in Pennsylvania, the United States, or abroad and compare and contrast the memorials.



# Analyzing the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial

- Look at the images below. In your opinion, which is most reminiscent of the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial? Why?




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- Why do you think the architect chose to make the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial depict a "war-torn building?"

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## VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

- What elements of the memorial represent:
  - the Air Force?
  - the Navy / Marines / Coast Guard?
  - the Army?
- What do you think the fountain pools represent? Why?

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- Who does the Eternal Flame Honor?

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- What do the eight flags surrounding the memorial represent?

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### Questions for Discussion:

- What element of the memorial had the biggest impact on you? Why?

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- How does the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial guide visitors to reflect on sacrifice, service, and battle?

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#### VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM