Understanding America Through Art, Unit IX:

Monuments and Memorials

**GLOSSARY**

**Architect** – a professional who is trained and licensed in planning and designing buildings, and participates in supervising the construction of a building; a monument architect is masterful in design, engineering, and aesthetics. He or she may also be trained in ecology.

**The Draft** – compulsory military service required of all men between the ages of 18 and 25 deemed physically and mentally fit to serve. The draft was discontinued in 1973, but held as a contingency in case of military necessity.

**Equilateral triangle** – a triangle having equal measurement on all three sides

**Louisiana Purchase** - acquisition by the United States of 828,800 square miles of the French territory Louisiane in 1803. The land purchased contained all of present-day Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, parts of Minnesota that were west of the Mississippi River, most of North Dakota, nearly all of South Dakota, northeastern New Mexico, the portions of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado east of the Continental Divide, and Louisiana west of the Mississippi River, including the city of New Orleans.

**Magma** – hot liquid rock deep within the Earth from which hardened rock is formed on the Earth’s surface

**Obelisk** – a pillar of stone that has a square base and sides that taper toward a pointed top

**Outcroppings** - rocks projecting upward from the soil

**Protractor** – an instrument shaped like a semicircle marked with degrees, used to measure or mark out angles

**Promontory** – a point of land that juts out into the sea

**Territory** – a geographic area that is owned and controlled by a government or country. The United States has six territories: The District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.), The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, The United States Virgin Islands and The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
How Do We Honor Our Heroes?

Architecture combined with sculpture is the best form of art that perfectly captures the ebb and flow of human civilization across time. In all cultures, architecture has expressed social concerns, religious beliefs, and ideals and attitudes. By studying what a nation designs and memorializes through its architects and sculptors, we can learn about the values, triumphs and even defeats of a group of people.

America honors leaders, and uses democratic practices to establish not only what the memorial will look like, also where and how it will be built. In this unit we have selected memorials that testify to the worth and importance of fighting for the beliefs of the people who formed our nation, or who gave us cause to celebrate. We remember the artists – architects, sculptors, engineers, designers and planners – who brought the projects to their final forms through their amazing talents.

As you study this unit, ask yourself:

- Which of the monuments best reflects your own values and opinions?
- Which suffered the greatest controversy?
- What artistic talent is displayed in these American icons?
The Washington Monument

As commander of the Revolutionary War’s Continental Army and the first U.S. president, George Washington (1732 – 1799) is one of the founders of our country. Even before he died, people were talking about building a monument to him in Washington, D.C.

The Washington Monument is one of the tallest masonry structures in the world, standing just over 555 feet. It weighs more than 90,000 tons. At its base there are 898 steps, inset with 193 memorial stones donated by 41 different states, 12 countries, 19 U.S. cities, and numerous clubs and organizations.

A. Monument facts:

Height:_________    Weight:__________
No. of steps:_____    No. of stones:_____
No. of states making donations:_______

Although plans began before 1800, debate delayed the ground-breaking of the monument until 1848. People disagreed over what form the monument should take, where it should be built, and if it should be Washington’s tomb. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall formed the Washington National Monument Society, which began raising money for the project.

A design competition was held; a popular architect, Robert Mills, submitted the design for the structure that was finally chosen. Mills’ original design included an obelisk surrounded by columns and statues. Possibly this structure was thought to be too elaborate, or too expensive, because the obelisk portion was all that was ever attempted. Soon after Mills’ design was selected, congress agreed on a 30-acre parcel of land where the monument would be built, on a spot near the Potomac River, visible to all surrounding areas.
The monument was funded in part by donations of memorial stones to line the inner chamber of the structure. States, countries and organizations provided stones that were of native substance, 4 feet long and 2 feet thick, with a 12-to-18 inch inscription area on the face. One particular stone, a memorial stone donated by Pope Pious IX, became the center of a great controversy for the Monument Society.

B. How large were the donated stones?_________

The pope sent an original stone from the Temple of Concord in Rome as the Roman Catholic Church’s tribute to George Washington. Many Americans objected to the inclusion of a stone of religious significance in the monument. The most strident objectors were the members of the Order of the Star-Spangled Banner, later called the American Party, a reactionary political group commonly referred to as the “Know-Nothings,” for answering every controversial or probing question with, “I know nothing.”

The Know-Nothings had gained membership during the hard economic times of the early 1850s. Their members came from the working classes in the cities. The party blamed the current problems in the United States on the recent waves of Irish and German immigrants. Because party members felt that the United States should be reserved for those people born in this country, they were opposed to the growing presence of “foreign” religions, especially the Catholic Church.
On March 6, 1854, a group of suspected Know-Nothings broke into the Washington Monument construction shed and stole the pope’s stone, tossing it into the Potomac River. It was never recovered. Displeased by the Know-Nothings’ position of intolerance, Congress halted the funding of the project.

C. Why did the Know-Nothings steal the Pope’s stone?_______________________
__________________________________
__________________________________

For the next 25 years, a 150-foot unfinished monument stood at the center of the nation’s capital as a sad reminder of the country’s political failures. The Civil War (1861 – 1865) bitterly divided the nation into North and South. Attempts at fundraising failed. Fields surrounding the monument were used to graze sheep and cattle, helping to feed the Union army.

D. What delayed the completion of the monument?___________________________
__________________________________
__________________________________

In 1871 the New York legislature voted to donate $1,000 to the Monument Society. Other states followed. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Casey of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was put in charge of overseeing the completion of the project. So much time had elapsed between the original ground-breaking and Casey’s assignment, a new foundation had to be built, and a redesign of Mill’s original structure had to be drawn. Marble that had been used in the original structure could no longer be found, and a different darker marble had to be used to complete the structure, causing the monument to appear two-toned. Can you see the different colors in the picture at left?
E. What problems were caused by delaying the completion of the monument? 

Tall and elegant, the Washington Monument was finally completed in 1885, at a total cost of more than $1.1 million, a century after Washington patriots first began planning it. It was opened to the public in 1888. Approximately one million people come to visit it each year. Surrounded by 56 flags, one for each state and 6 territories, the Washington Monument stands today as a dramatic and stirring reminder of one of the greatest heroes in American history.
Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Rising high above the plains of South Dakota’s Black Hills, the monumental granite sculpture known commonly as Mount Rushmore represents the first 150 years of the history of the United States. Heads of four presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, each 60 feet high, attract approximately two million visitors each year.

Over 1200 acres make up the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, at a height of 5,725 feet above sea level. The Black Hills are some of the oldest mountains in the world, with prehistoric granite domes formed from hot, liquid magma over 1.5 billion years ago. The granite outcroppings that have been formed throughout the area seemed to offer the perfect material for the type of sculpture that their creators envisioned.

F. Monument facts:
Height above sea level: ____________
Height of each carved head: __________
Age of the Black Hills: _______________
Number of acres in the memorial: _____

As secretary and historian of the South Dakota Historical Society of 1924, Doane Robinson wanted to attract visitors to his state. He conceived of the idea of a granite sculptor of heroic westerners like Chief Red Cloud, Buffalo Bill Cody, Lewis and Clark, and legendary Sioux warriors. Sculptor, hard-rock miner and artist Gutzon Borglum, who had sculpted a marble bust of Abraham Lincoln, was the man chosen for the project.

Borglum’s work on Mount Rushmore was nearly blocked because of his difficulties with Georgia’s Stone Mountain Association who had tried to commission him in 1915 for a massive sculpture of the leaders of the Confederacy. But Borglum’s difficult artistic temperament, his demands to have the final word on the artistic aspects of the sculpture, and his antisocial tendencies shown by his active membership in the Klu Klux Klan resulted in his firing by the Stone Mountain Association, and left him free to design and sculpt Mount Rushmore.
Borglum wanted to honor men of greater stature than local heroes, men he admired as nation-builders, so he convinced Robinson that the monument should honor:

- George Washington for his distinguished leadership as Founding Father of a nation struggling for independence that led to the birth of the Republic
- Thomas Jefferson for his role as the president responsible for the territorial expansion of the country from west of the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains, and for the Louisiana Purchase which included South Dakota
- Theodore Roosevelt for presiding over the country during the completion of the Panama Canal, for the 20th Century role of the U.S. in world affairs, and for promoting the rights of the common man
- Abraham Lincoln for holding the nation together during the Civil War, forming the permanent union of the states, and declaring equality for all citizens.

In search of the right location to place the memorial, Borglum toured the Harney Range of the Black Hills. He wanted the site to be big enough for the grand scale he envisioned. The rock needed to be tightly grained without any obvious cracks or changes in the quality of the stone. He also wanted the area to face south to capture the sun throughout the day. Mount Rushmore met all his requirements.

G. Why did Borglum select Mount Rushmore for his project?
- ____________________________
- ____________________________
- ____________________________

Borglum began the project in 1927 by creating a working plaster model on a 1-to-12 scale, meaning that one inch on the model equalled 12 inches on the mountain. He transferred the model design to the mountain using two protractors, one mounted on a beam of wood atop the model’s head, and the other, 12 times larger, at the point on the mountain where the sculpting would begin. Workers on the mountain were then able to determine how much rock to remove.

A powder man prepares dynamite charges.
Rock was removed first by blasting with dynamite. Next, drillers, suspended by cables, created “honeycombs” on the exposed surface. Jackhammers and chisels were used to clear away the layer of honeycombs. The final details on the men’s faces were done with special airhammers, called *bumpers*, that left the rock as smooth as poured concrete. These final steps were closely studied by Borglum, who had to change his model nine different times because of problems encountered with the granite.

Work was halted for the final time in 1941, when Borglum died leaving his son Lincoln to take over the finishing details. The 300-foot-high pile of rocks at the base of the mountain was left there as a reminder of work unfinished. Today, pine trees grow up out of the granite rubble.

President George Bush and a group of celebrities praised the monument on its fiftieth anniversary at a party to commemorate the strength of the nation, the spirit and vision of Gutzon Borglum, and 19 of Borglum’s original workers who were in attendance. The Mount Rushmore Memorial Society continues to hold fundraising drives for improvements to the visitor facilities and for upkeep on the memorial as a tribute to four of America’s greatest leaders.
Borglum’s team of carvers had to endure work stoppages due to lack of funds, high winds, ice storms and harsh winter weather. Normal snowfall for the Black Hills ranges from 60 – 100 inches annually, with average January temperatures at 25 degrees.

What are the weather conditions today on Mount Rushmore? In your Internet browser, type:

**Mount Rushmore, South Dakota Live Webcam**

Scroll down to see a current live broadcast of Mount Rushmore. For more details on the weather conditions, click on **Current Weather**. Scroll down to Rapid City, South Dakota (largest city near the Black Hills), and click. Write the current weather conditions below:

I. __________________________________________________________________________

**Sioux Treaty of 1868**

Sioux (pronounced Soo) Indians had been driven out of the Black Hills, which they called *Paha Sapa*, the spiritual center of their land. They believed that it was in these hills that their world was created and the spirits of their ancestors lived. Traditionally a young Sioux warrior would venture into the area alone on a vision quest, or special spiritual journey.

This sacred region was stolen from the Sioux in a war with the U.S. Army. Because gold had been discovered in the Black Hills in 1874 and because there was a depression in the United States at the time, thousands of white men rushed to the area seeking a fortune. The area, promised to the Sioux in the Treaty of 1868, was supposed to be off limits to whites.

The United States, acting in the interests of the white gold miners, tried to buy the area back from the Sioux, but the two sides could not come to an agreement, and the U.S. declared war on the Indians. The Sioux, although victorious in the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876, were later brutally destroyed and forced onto reservations.

To the Sioux, dedicating Mount Rushmore, their ancient spiritual ground, as a landmark memorial to the power and spirit of the United States was a terrible insult.

J. Why is Mount Rushmore important to the Sioux Indians? ____________________________________________
Sioux Chief Henry Standing Bear asked sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to “Carve us a mountain so the white man will know that the red man had great heroes, too.” Ziolkowski and Henry Standing Bear traveled around the Black Hills looking for another mountain that could be carved up. Thunderhead Mountain, 90 miles from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, was chosen. Ziolkowski decided his subject would be the famous Sioux leader, Crazy Horse.

Ziolkowski began his project in 1947. His plans were not completed at the time of his death in 1982, but his wife and eight of his ten children continue to work on the Crazy Horse Memorial. Although still unfinished in 2009, frequent fund raising efforts in the form of raffles, celebrations, tours and museum activities keep the project going. The picture below shows a recent frontal view of the head.

K. Why are the Sioux carving the image of Crazy Horse into a mountain?________________________
In 1835, Richard Henry Dana arrived on board the brig *Pilgrim*, a tall-masted sailing ship out of Boston, bound for the California coast. Suffering with weakening eyesight, Dana had left his studies at Harvard and at age 19 signed on to the *Pilgrim* as a common sailor. Later he vividly described life on ship and on shore in his famous book, *Two Years Before the Mast* (1840).

The *Pilgrim* anchored in a small harbor on the southern California coast to trade for valuable hides from the local cattle ranchers to supply the shoe factories in Massachusetts. Several oxcart loads of hides were brought to the cliffs. “Down this height we pitched the hides, throwing them as far out into the air as we could…” so they landed on the beach for loading onto the *Pilgrim.*
L. What business was the Pilgrim conducting when it landed on the Southern California shore?

Dana was so impressed by the beauty of the terrain with its dramatic cliffs and promontory that he described the cove as “the only romantic spot” on the coast.

After completing his law degree at Harvard, Dana had a distinguished career in maritime and international law. His experience as a seaman, his intense sense of justice, and the influence of his book, all helped to fulfill a vow he made one day on the California coast: “that if God should ever give me the means, I would do something to redress the grievances and relieve the sufferings of that class of beings with whom my lot had so long been cast.” In his book he candidly tells of the life of a sailor:

- the captain of the ship is all-powerful and commands sailors mercilessly
- sailors must work at all times, and never be found taking a break or talking to shipmates
- seasickness is a daily worry
- wages are very low and chores may be tedious or quite dangerous
- danger from violent storms, illness and pirates is common

In 1884 Dana Point was named in his honor, in memory of his brief visits and enthusiastic description of this beautiful place. In 1972 the Orange County Board of Supervisors dedicated a statue to Sir Richard Henry Dana. Each year Dana Point holds the Tall Ships Festival to honor the Pilgrim and ships like her and the sailors who braved the life at sea.

M. What hardships might a sailor encounter in a life at sea, according to Dana?
In the 1930s, the people of St. Louis, Missouri conceived a plan to commemorate their city for the important role St. Louis played in the westward expansion of the country. Known as the “Gateway Arch,” it stands as one of the great engineering marvels of the modern age. Its unique construction, 630 feet high, and polished stainless-steel outer surface can be seen from 30 miles away. From its conception in 1933, to completion in 1965, many challenges had to be met.

N. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Facts:
   - Known as (name):____________________
   - Height:____________________________
   - Construction material:_________________
   - Years to completion:__________________

St. Louis, Missouri, is located on the Mississippi River, an important starting point for many westbound explorers, trappers, and settlers of the 1800s. Although once a bustling trade center in the early days, the city had lost much of its vibrancy in the depressed economic times of the 1930s. Traffic on the river had nearly stopped, warehouses stood empty and the riverfront, once the heart of St. Louis economy, was nearly dead.
More than a century earlier, Thomas Jefferson (1801 – 1809) had been responsible for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, a land mass that stretched from the Mississippi River west as far as Colorado, and north to the Canadian border, doubling the size of the United States. He sent out an expedition, led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to explore the newly acquired lands. They departed from St. Charles, Missouri, on the outskirts of St. Louis, along the Missouri River, ending their journey at the Pacific Ocean. It was the beginning point of that expedition, in the St. Louis area, that marks the Gateway of the West.

President Thomas Jefferson, the nation’s third president (1801 – 1809), embodied the spirit of the country. In one of his most important acts, Jefferson doubled the size of the United States by agreeing to purchase the Louisiana Territory west of the Mississippi from Napoleon Bonaparte for $15 million. This act was known as the Louisiana Purchase.

A plan to erect a monument in tribute to President Thomas Jefferson was easily approved by the people of St. Louis, and funds for the project were awarded. The site was chosen for its historical location, near the riverfront trading center of past decades.

O. Why did the people of St. Louis decide to erect a monument to Thomas Jefferson?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Funding for the project came from St. Louis citizens and from the Federal Government. But America had entered World War II in 1941, and funds had to be redirected to projects related to war efforts. People of St. Louis formed an association to keep the project moving forward. The Memorial Association, as it was called, held a national contest for architects and designers from around the country to submit their designs. The design had to include five basic features:

- an architectural memorial
- a museum dedicated to old St. Louis
- a living memorial to Thomas Jefferson
- a plan for recreational use of the memorial site
- provisions for moving the site’s historic railroad tracks

P. Which of these plan features do you consider the most important? Why?____________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

The winning design was submitted by Eero Saarinen (1910 – 1961), a graduate of the Yale School of Architecture and native of Finland. His idea for the memorial came for his appreciation for simple shapes like the pyramids and obelisks of ancient Egypt. Saarinen felt that in their simplicity, the shapes have maintained their significance and dignity throughout the ages.

The shape is called a catenary arch. A catenary curve is the curve that a chain makes when it is suspended loosely between two points. Saarinen felt this shape would give him the elegance he wanted, and would retain the architectural strength needed for such a large-scale design.
At the monument’s base at each end is an equilateral triangle with 54-foot sides. As the arch curves upward from the bases, it tapers, so that, at the top of the arch, its cross section is an equilateral triangle with 17-foot sides.

Stacking the triangles one on top of the other formed the structure of the arch.

The core was left hollow so that visitors would be able to travel to the top in a tram car. At the top, a series of windows allow visitors to view the landscape below.

Q. What does a chain have to do with the design of the St. Louis Arch?  

Is the arch the same size from top to bottom? Explain.

This sketch of the tram shows the design for the inside trip to the top of the arch.
R. What was planned to run up the hollow center of the structure?

Although not a part of the original plan, the Museum of Westward Expansion was added to the design in 1960. A 150-foot by 290-foot cavern was created beneath the arch, but sat for ten years waiting for funds to become available. The museum finally opened on August 10, 1976, with the biggest celebration the arch had ever seen. The photo of the arch below shows how the structure dominates the downtown skyline of St. Louis. It stands forever as a reminder of the millions of brave and rugged individuals who have taken a part in the building of America.

![The St. Louis Arch on the Mississippi River.](image)

**Internet Research**

In your Internet browser, type:

AAA Travelviews St. Louis Arch

Scroll down to find: AAA TravelViews | The St. Louis Gateway Arch and click to open the site. Read Greg Weekes account of his trip up the arch. What is a pod? Draw the pod below:

S. The author says the views of St. Louis from the top of the arch are impressive but recommends you make the trip on a _________day with good __________________.
The Vietnam War, America’s involvement in the conflict between North and South Vietnam, began in the summer of 1963. United States Special Forces soldiers, the Green Berets, under the orders of President John F. Kennedy, arrived in South Vietnam to teach the villagers how to defend themselves against the encroaching communist fighters known as the Viet Cong. Kennedy and his military leaders believed that if North Vietnam communists were allowed to take over South Vietnam, other countries in Asia would topple and fall under communism as well. Kennedy committed America to defend South Vietnam, until his death in November, 1963. His successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson, increased the number of American troops sent in to Vietnam to almost 500,000 by 1967.

Americans were very divided over the involvement in Vietnam. Some argued that America should increase the artillery, including an atomic bomb, to end the conflict. Others believed that American troops should not be fighting the war between two foreign countries. Many of the war protestors were college students in danger of being drafted, or forced, into joining the military. Many burned their draft cards in public, and thousands fled to Canada or Europe to escape the draft. American opinions were widen apart than at any time since the country had been split by slavery and the Civil War, a hundred years earlier.
Despite efforts at Peace Talks held in Paris in 1968 between the North Vietnamese, the South Vietnamese and the Americans, no agreements were reached. Nearly 2 million American men and women had served in Vietnam, and more than 40,000 had died at this point. As many as 260,000 were wounded; many were mentally damaged and addicted to drugs. In 1969 the new president, Richard Nixon, tried to bolster the South Vietnamese troop efforts by ordering American soldiers to invade nearby country Cambodia. Many American people felt that Nixon was widening the war, not ending it and voiced their opposition in rallies and protest marches. Wounded soldiers came home to America as targets of insults. They did not receive a hero’s welcome as in wars of the past. In 1975 when the communists finally overtook the South Vietnam city of Saigon ending the conflict, no celebrations were organized. America had been humiliated and defeated by communist North Vietnam.

T. Why did Americans want to help the South Vietnamese?

In 1979, a wounded Vietnam veteran, Jan Scruggs, began raising funds to build a memorial to the men and women who died in Vietnam, a final count of over 58,000. A design competition was held by the National Mall and Memorial Parks group. The design had to:

- be reflective and contemplative in character
- harmonize with its surroundings
- contain the names of those who had died in the conflict or who were still missing
- make no political statement about the war

The group received 1,421 entries, and displayed them in an airport hangar at Andrews Air Force Base.

A selection committee of eight architects and sculptors unanimously selected a design by Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old Yale University architecture student from Ohio.

The Memorial Wall is made up of two black granite walls, 246 feet long. The walls are sunk into the ground with the earth behind them. At the highest tip where the two walls meet, the structure is 10 feet high, tapering to a height of eight inches at the ends. The granite has a reflecting quality.
The names of soldiers are etched into the granite. Many people like to bring paper and pencil to the wall to rub over the etchings of names they recognize.

The Wall was completed in 1982, but many found it too abstract calling it a “black gash of shame.” They wanted a more heroic, traditional monument depicting soldiers instead of a “giant tombstone.” Washington sculptor Frederic Hart’s design of Three Servicemen was selected to satisfy the complaints against the abstract Wall.

Women’s groups complained when the Three Servicemen statue was unveiled, claiming that women were under represented by it. A third statue to honor women who served in the Vietnam War, mostly as nurses, was designed by Glenna Goodacre. Today all three statues comprise the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial in Washington, D.C.

V. You can search for names on the wall at the Internet website:

**The Vietnam Veteran’s Wall Page**

On the page, find Wall Information listed at left and click. Click on Search the Wall tab at the top of the page. Search on last name Sanchez, state of California. Many names and service record details appear. How many servicemen named Sanchez are listed from California?___________
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