

Statues and War Memorials

Drama

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To build on classroom work around war memorials
- To use drama to create imaginary memorials
- To deepen understanding of the historical facts of World War One.

SKILLS TARGETED

- Group work
- Co-operation
- Imaginative responses to visual stimulus
- Physical co-ordination and control.

RESOURCES

- An open space

SUGGESTED TIME SCALE

- 30 minutes

Step 1

Show the class some illustrations of soldiers on the battlefield in WWI, and of war memorials. Explain that the memorials are a way of remembering and honouring those who gave their lives in wartime

Step 2

Ask all the children to walk around the room, evenly spaced so no one is bumping into each other. We call this "keeping the floor alive". The children are now going to create their own war statues and war memorials

Step 3

Ask everyone to stop and each make a statue of a charging soldier with a bayonet. This should happen very quickly, in a few seconds

Step 4

Ask the children to walk again. This time when you stop them, they each should make a badly-wounded soldier

Step 5

Again, the children walk around. The next statue is in pairs, showing a wounded soldier being rescued/supported by another soldier. Give this sculpture the title "Friendship". See the statues and invite other title suggestions

Step 5

The last sculpture is in fours. This time it is up to the groups to choose their own theme for a war memorial and to create their own group statue and title

Step 6

Share each group's memorial with the rest of the class, and/or photograph the memorials for the working wall.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- The children will create a series of statues and memorials
- They will think about different aspects of the war and how it is remembered
- The children will create their own imaginative responses to the idea of a war memorial
- The children will work together to make collaborative frozen images.

