

Horse War Memorials

History/Art&Design

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To become aware of local war memorials
- To create a powerful message using words and pictures
- To make a 3D memorial using a range of materials

SKILLS TARGETED

- Art and design
- Descriptive writing

RESOURCES

- Paper
- Drawing and painting materials
- 3D construction materials – shoe boxes, junk, modelling materials, plasticine/clay

SUGGESTED TIME SCALE

- 1 session for research
- 1 session for drawing monuments
- 1-2 sessions for creating 3-D monuments

Step 1

Almost every town and village in the country has a memorial to help us remember the men and women who died in the wars. The Animals in War Memorial is situated at Brook Gate, Park Lane, on the edge of London's Hyde Park to commemorate the millions of animals who have also died in battle. Find an image of this online or in print and show the children this memorial.

Step 2

Find a local memorial and if possible take your group to see it to find out the following information:

- How old were the men who died?
- Where did they come from?
- What was their job in the war?
- Where and when did they die?
- Are any of the names the same? What does that tell us?
- What patterns, pictures or designs are on the memorial?

Step 3

You could hold a P4C discussion with the children focusing on the following questions:

- Is it right to use animals in war?
- Have we recognised their contribution?

Step 4

Everyone – either as individuals, in pairs or small groups – should design a memorial to show how important horses were in the war, and decide where they would like the memorial to be placed, for example, in school? In town? In London?

Step 5

Ask the class to draw their memorials in detail. They should decide how to show the horses – active in battle, or peaceful in fields?

Step 6

Now each child can make up a message to write on the memorial saying what the horses did and when they died. They could also include the horses' names.

Step 7

The children can make a 3D version of the memorial, using the materials available.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Children will discover new information about horses in the war
- They will imagine and empathise with horses dying in the war
- They will use descriptive language and imagery for their memorials
- They will create moving and evocative drawings and 3D memorials

