

MAKING THE 9/11 MEMORIAL

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Memorial at Night. Visualization by Squared Design Lab

KEY TERMS:

Students may want to define the list of terms below which are referenced in this program, and they can also keep their own list of terms to define as they watch.

Arduous
Bevel
Commemorate
Fabrication
Parapet
Patina
Prevail
Tangible
Void

CURRICULUM LINKS:

Making the 9/11 Memorial would be useful for U.S. History, Current Events, Social Issues, and Politics courses and for activities related to 9/11 commemorations. Due to some sensitive language and content, teachers should watch it before showing it to students. It is recommended for 9th graders and above.

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Americans from all walks of life joined together to rebuild the area around the World Trade Center. The nation grieved the loss of nearly 3,000 Americans as the result of these horrific attacks in New York City. As time passed, a huge decision loomed at the site: what was the best way to memorialize and pay tribute to those who lost their lives? This 1-hour HISTORY® special is a behind-the-scenes exploration of the process of constructing the 9/11 Memorial, from its inception through its installation.

An architect named Michael Arad was the winner of a worldwide competition to design a memorial for the site. Arad's design, entitled "Reflected Absence" is situated on 8 acres of land near the Twin Towers site, with two waterfalls cascading into reflecting pools below the surface of the ground. Bronze parapets at the site are inscribed with the names of those who lost their lives on 9/11 and in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. This program gives students an opportunity to reflect on the significance of 9/11 through the eyes of those who conceptualized and created this meaningful memorial.



Aerial View. Visualization by Squared Design Lab



Memorial Glade. Visualization by Squared Design Lab

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Michael Arad's design for the 9/11 Memorial was chosen from among over 5,000 designs submitted from people in over 60 countries. Why do you think his design was most compelling to the committee that picked the winning design?
2. One person describes the 9/11 Memorial as "permanent, beautiful, respectful, emotional." What are some other words you would use to describe the memorial?
3. The construction of the 9/11 Memorial involved many people. What were some of the key roles in the creation of the memorial?
4. What role did KC Fabrications play in the creation of the memorial? What are "fabrications"?
5. What were some of the major obstacles along the road to creating the memorial?
6. Many of the workers who built the 9/11 Memorial described their feelings about being involved in this project in this documentary. What are some of the emotions they describe?
7. What role did computer software play in the development of the memorial? How do you think this technology helped make the process easier?
8. Why was it important to test the bronze parapets and other parts of the memorial before they were installed at the site?
9. How many people do you think will visit the 9/11 Memorial, and what do you think will be their main reasons for visiting the site?
10. In 100 years, how do you think 9/11/2001 will be remembered? What role will memorials play in keeping memories alive?



Memorial Plaza. Visualization by Squared Design Lab



Memorial Plaza. Visualization by Squared Design Lab



Memorial Pool Names at Night. Visualization by Squared Design Lab

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES:

1. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum has developed an excellent website. Have students take a “virtual tour” of the 9/11 Memorial online. Students can then write a 1-2 page paper describing the memorial.
2. The final 9/11 Memorial design was one among thousands of potential design options. Have students design a blueprint of their own 9/11 Memorial on a poster or in another format. Students may also want to write songs, poems, or develop other creative projects that commemorate the events of 9/11.
3. One of the goals of any memorial is to help future generations remember past events. Ask students to write letters or diary entries about the significance of 9/11 to save for future generations.
4. In addition to the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, other memorials have been built or are planned to commemorate the 9/11 attacks. Ask students to research the Flight 93 National Memorial, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial or any other 9/11 memorial and write up a short description of each.

WEBSITES:

Learn more about 9/11 on History.com:
www.history.com/topics/9-11-attacks

National September 11 Memorial & Museum:
www.911memorial.org

National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial:
<http://pentagonmemorial.org>

Flight 93 National Memorial:
<http://www.nps.gov/flni/index.htm>



Memorial Pool Names in Daylight. Visualization by Squared Design Lab