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**GREAT WAR, FLAWED PEACE,  
AND THE LASTING LEGACY  
OF WORLD WAR I**

★



THE UNITED STATES  
WORLD WAR ONE  
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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HISTORY DAY

# WAR MEMORIALS ABROAD: FOREIGN MEMORIALIZATION OF THE GREAT WAR



**GUIDING QUESTION:** How were the memorials created by other nations after World War I a reflection of their national experience during the war and a direct effort to construct a national narrative?

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## WHY?

I appreciate lessons that discuss the role of memory and memorialization. Statues, memorials, and monuments are intentional reminders of the type of history that we (as a nation or group) choose to remember. Foreign memorialization regarding the Great War can tell students a great deal about how different nations constructed their memory of the conflict.

## OVERVIEW

Using photographs of several nations' World War I Memorials (Australia, Great Britain, Canada, France, and Germany), students will analyze how different nations throughout the world memorialized their servicemen from the Great War. Students will be able to compare and contrast the experiences of at least two nations and how they decided to formally commemorate their wartime experiences.

## OBJECTIVES

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

- › Describe the importance of memorials and monuments to collective or national memory;
- › Analyze the motivations for two different World War I memorials from two countries; and
- › Compare and contrast how memorials from two separate nations reflect their effort to construct their own national memory regarding World War I.

## STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

### CONNECTIONS TO COMMON CORE

- › CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
- › CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- › CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9 Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

## DOCUMENTS USED

### PRIMARY SOURCES

Australia, Australian Memorial Park, Fromelles, France  
Flickr  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/thrutheselines/6914273941/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rezendi/15587646379>

Canada, Canadian Vimy Ridge Memorial, Givenchy-en-Gohelle, France  
Chris Preperato

France, Notre-Dame de Lorette, Ablain-St.Nazaire French Military Cemetery, Ablain-St.Nazaire, France  
Wikimedia Commons  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Notre-Dame-de-Lorette\\_-\\_IMG\\_2693.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Notre-Dame-de-Lorette_-_IMG_2693.jpg)

Germany, The Grieving Parents, German War Cemetery, Flanders, Belgium  
Wikimedia Commons  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Het\\_treurende\\_ouderpaar\\_-\\_K%C3%A4the\\_Kolwitz.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Het_treurende_ouderpaar_-_K%C3%A4the_Kolwitz.JPG)  
Flickr  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skender/1243019160/>

Great Britain, Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, France  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-cemeteries-and-memorials/80800/thiepval-memorial/history>

## MATERIALS

- > World War I Country Information Sheets
- > Foreign Memorial Analysis Chart
- > Foreign Memorial Rubric
- > Computers for student use
- > Projector
- > Colored pencils or markers

## ACTIVITY PREPARATION

- > Print (or make available electronically) one copy of the following for each student:
  - » World War I Country Information Sheets
  - » Foreign Memorial Analysis Chart

## PROCEDURE

### ACTIVITY ONE: COMPARING WAR MEMORIALS (45 MINUTES)

- > Ask students a series of open-ended questions:
  - » *How do we remember war?*
  - » *What affects the way that we remember different conflicts throughout history?*
- > Introduce students to the main topic for today's lesson.
  - » *Today, we will be examining photographs and descriptions of several nations' World War I memorials (including Australia, Great Britain, Canada, France, and Germany). Your task will be to analyze how different nations memorialized their servicemen from the Great War. In order to do this, you will select two nations from the list. You will compare and contrast the experiences of these two nations and how they decided to formally remember their nation's wartime experiences.*
- > Ask each student to select two nations from the list above and view their memorials. Once complete, read the World War I Country Information Sheets.
  - » **Teacher Tip:** Students could work independently or in small groups at teacher discretion.
  - » Allow students to use computers to search the memorial to see more views or learn more about that nation's role in World War I.
- > Direct students to analyze the memorial by completing the Foreign Memorial Analysis Chart.

### ACTIVITY TWO: SYNTHESIS DISCUSSION: (15 MINUTES)

- > Lead a discussion. Questions can include:
  - » *What are some examples of ways that your countries chose to memorialize the war?*
  - » *What did they leave out of their monuments or memorials?*
  - » *Why do you believe that they chose to highlight or hide certain features?*
  - » *How do you think their decisions on what to highlight or hide reflected their national experience during the war?*
  - » *Was the memorial a direct effort to construct a national narrative? Why or why not?*
- » **Teacher Tip:** Project the memorial images as the students discuss their nations and memorials.

### ASSESSMENT

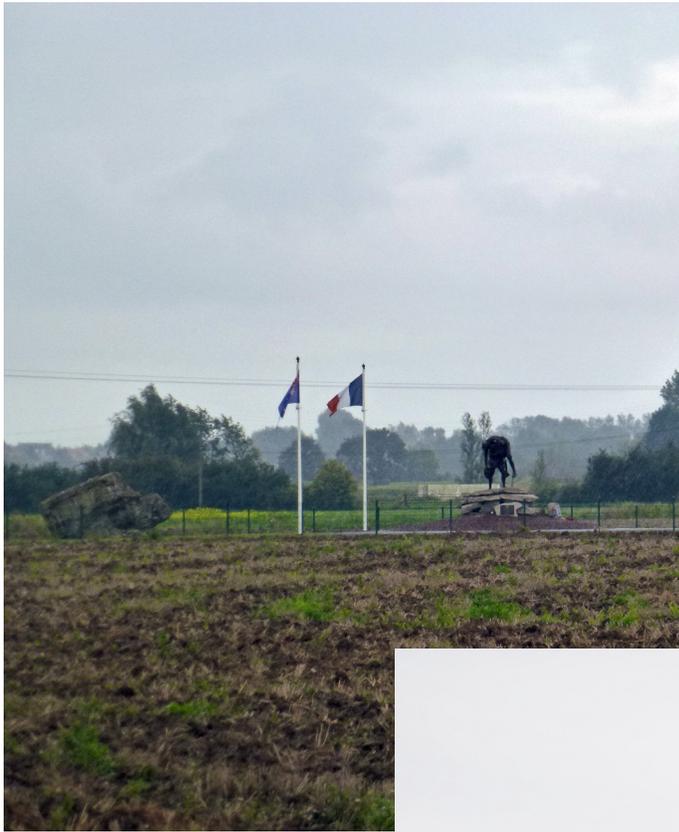
- > Assign each student the compare / contrast prompt at the bottom of the Foreign Memorial Analysis Chart.
- > Teachers can use the Foreign Memorial Rubric to evaluate work.

### METHODS FOR EXTENSION

- > The lesson could be extended by using the student's imagination to create a World War I Memorial for their local community. The teacher and students might research their local community's participation in World War I and craft a memorial to commemorate their experiences.
- > Students could use Google Maps to explore the memorials and cemetery grounds for each of the memorials. If technology allows, this enables students to see the surrounding areas, which might help contextualize these memorials.
- > Students could also design a memorial for American (or any other nation's) women. Throughout the country there is a distinct lack of memorialization for female contributions to World War I, and this thought activity could shed light on this oversight. The class could also write to their members of Congress with their concerns about the lack of memorialization for women in World War I.

# AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL PARK

FROMELLES, FRANCE



# WORLD WAR I COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET: AUSTRALIA

## World War I Statistics:

- > World War I lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918.
- > 70 million military personnel were mobilized, including 60 million Europeans.
- > The war led to 40 million total casualties (15-19 million killed and 23 million military personnel wounded). Between nine and 11 million were killed in the military, and another eight million civilians died (many from famine caused by the war).

## Australia during the Great War:

- > *Casualties Experienced:*
  - » Combat Deaths: 59,330 to 62,149
  - » Civilian Deaths: 0
  - » Total Deaths: 59,330 to 62,149
  - » Wartime Population: five million
  - » Deaths as a Percent of Population: 1.19% to 1.24%
- > *Significant Battles in Australian Memory:* The Battle of Fromelles involved a famous charge in July 1916 that cost Australia over 5,500 casualties. These casualties included more than 2,000 dead soldiers. This battle represented one of the most traumatic war experiences for the Australian Army and is still remembered to this day.
- > *End Result of the War:* The Australians, as a member of the British Commonwealth, achieved victory with the armistice on November 11, 1918. With the victory, they maintained their position within the British imperial system; however, they did not gain any significant concessions from the Treaty of Versailles.

**CANADA, CANADIAN VIMY RIDGE MEMORIAL**  
GIVENCHY-EN-GOHELLE, FRANCE



## WORLD WAR I COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET: CANADA

### World War I Statistics:

- > World War I lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918.
- > 70 million military personnel were mobilized, including 60 million Europeans.
- > The war led to 40 million total casualties (15-19 million killed and 23 million military personnel wounded). Between nine and 11 million were killed in the military, and another eight million civilians died (many from famine caused by the war).

### Canada during the Great War:

- > *Casualties Experienced:*
  - » Combat Deaths: 56,639 to 64,996
  - » Civilian Deaths: 1,963
  - » Total Deaths: 58,638 to 66,996
  - » Wartime Population: 7.2 million
  - » Deaths as Percent of Population: 0.81% to 0.93%
- > *Significant Battles in Canadian Memory:* The Battle of Vimy Ridge took place from April 9-12, 1917. The battle represented one of the most revered moments in Canadian military history as four divisions dislodged the German Army from the sixty meter high Vimy Ridge. Thousands of Canadians lost their lives, but many Canadians memorialize the country's role in the battle as a key moment in their nation's history.
- > *End Result of the War:* The Canadians, as a member of the British Commonwealth, achieved victory with the armistice on November 11, 1918. With the victory, they maintained their position within the British imperial system; however, they did not gain any significant concessions from the Treaty of Versailles.

**FRANCE, NOTRE-DAME DE LORETTE,**  
ABLAIN-ST.NAZAIRE FRENCH MILITARY CEMETERY, ABLAIN-ST.NAZAIRE, FRANCE



## WORLD WAR I COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET: FRANCE

### World War I Statistics:

- > World War I lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918.
- > 70 million military personnel were mobilized, including 60 million Europeans.
- > The war led to 40 million total casualties (15-19 million killed and 23 million military personnel wounded). Between nine and 11 million were killed in the military, and another eight million civilians died (many from famine caused by the war).

### France during the Great War:

- > *Casualties Experienced:*
  - » Combat Deaths: 1,150,000
  - » Civilian Deaths: 1,357,000 to 1,397,800
  - » Total Deaths: 1,697,000 to 1,737,800
  - » Wartime Population: 39.6 million
  - » Deaths as a Percent of Population: 4.29% to 4.39%
- > *Significant Battles in French Memory:* As one of the principal combatants, the French recall several battles from the Great War. The war on the Western Front raged for over four years and the French people arguably suffered more than any other belligerent nation. Several important battles still capture the French imagination including: Verdun, the Marne, and Ypres. However, there is a cemetery in France on the location of the Battle of Lorette, where thousands of French and Germans lost their lives in 1915.
- > *End Result of the War:* After the armistice, France had no intention of providing Germany with lenient surrender terms. Instead, the Treaty of Versailles laid down stiff retribution on Germany. Germans were forced to accept blame for the conflict, cede territory, pay a war indemnity, and limit the size of their armed forces. The devastation of France's beautiful countryside, army, and civilian population created a desire to punish the Germans.

**GERMANY, THE GRIEVING PARENTS**  
GERMAN WAR CEMETERY, FLANDERS, BELGIUM



## WORLD WAR I COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET: GERMANY

### World War I Statistics:

- > World War I lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918.
- > 70 million military personnel were mobilized, including 60 million Europeans.
- > The war led to 40 million total casualties (15-19 million killed and 23 million military personnel wounded). Between nine and 11 million were killed in the military, and another eight million civilians died (many from famine caused by the war).

### Germany during the Great War:

- > *Casualties Experienced:*
  - » Combat Deaths: 2,037,000
  - » Civilian Deaths: 720
  - » Total Deaths: 2,198,420 to 2,800,720
  - » Wartime Population: 64.9 million
  - » Deaths as a Percent of Population: 3.39% to 4.32%
- > *Significant Battles in German Memory:* The German Army enjoyed tremendous success in the war's first few months. The German Army marched quickly through Belgium and France before being stopped just short of Paris. Largely, the German Army inflicted a great deal of damage and destruction on their enemies, the Allied Powers. As much of the fighting took place in France, Germany's landscape remained relatively unscathed. At the end of the war, Germany still held much of war-torn France under its control. However, the British blockade by sea and the war of attrition forced the Germans to surrender. As the strongest member of the Central Powers, Germany fought in almost every major campaign against the Allied Forces, which forced their people to endure tremendous casualties.
- > *End Result of the War:* Although the war ended with Germans occupying French territory, the Germans found themselves without a strong negotiating position at the Versailles Peace Conference. As they could not restart the war, the new German government had to accept extremely harsh terms. These terms included: blame for starting the conflict, ceding territory to their adversaries, paying a war indemnity, and limiting the size of their armed forces, among other concessions.

**GREAT BRITAIN, THIEPVAL MEMORIAL**  
THIEPVAL, FRANCE



# WORLD WAR I COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET: GREAT BRITAIN

## World War I Statistics:

- > World War I lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918.
- > 70 million military personnel were mobilized, including 60 million Europeans.
- > The war led to 40 million total casualties (15-19 million killed and 23 million military personnel wounded). Between nine and 11 million were killed in the military, and another eight million civilians died (many from famine caused by the war).

## Great Britain during the Great War:

- > *Casualties Experienced:*
  - » Combat Deaths: 744,000 to 887,858
  - » Civilian Deaths: 16,829
  - » Total Deaths: 867,829
  - » Wartime Population: 45.4 million
  - » Deaths as a Percent of Population: 1.91% to 2.23%
- > *Significant Battles in British Memory:* Just as the French and Germans endured many arduous battles, the British experienced some of the war's most harrowing battles. The Battle of Ypres and the Battle of the Somme possess a special place in the British memory. The Somme represented the damage caused by the war as the British suffered over 57,000 casualties on the first day. The battle's pace rarely relented as it lasted from July 1 until November 1916 and cost the United Kingdom over 350,000 casualties.
- > *End Result of the War:* After the armistice, Britain, like France, was in no mood for leniency. Rather, they supported France's efforts to place strong terms in front of the Germans. The Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to accept blame for the conflict, cede territory, pay a war indemnity, and limit the size of their armed forces. Despite their victory, Britain's position in the war was threatened by the damage to their economy and the sheer loss of life that accompanied the war. The harsh terms that they dealt Germany represented their best attempt to cope with the war's devastation.

## FOREIGN MEMORIAL ANALYSIS CHART

Nation One: _____	Nation Two: _____
<p>What are some of the important architectural or written elements on the memorial? Name as many aspects as you can. (Think color, size, shape, material, and written elements, etc.)</p>	
<p>What do you believe the creators/architects of this memorial wanted visitors to understand or feel about the war and their country's experience during it?</p>	
<p>Based on your research, why do you think this nation selected this particular design for their memorial?</p>	

**Compare and Contrast:** Reflect on the following questions and answer them with a detailed response and sufficient examples to support your assertions. How are these memorials similar? How are they different? How were these memorials a reflection of the two different wartime experiences from your two countries? Finally, how were the memorials an effort to construct a national narrative about World War I?

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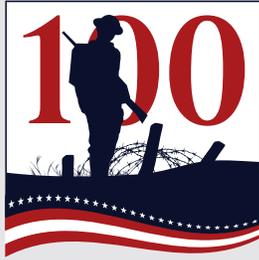
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## FOREIGN MEMORIAL RUBRIC

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Emerging
<b>Description</b>	Makes a complete and detailed description of the connection between memorials and collective memory.	Makes a detailed description of most parts of the connection between memorials and collective memory.	Makes a detailed description of some aspects of the connection between memorials and collective memory.	Descriptions are neither detailed nor complete.
<b>Analysis</b>	Accurately describes several dominant elements or principles used by the architect/creator and accurately relates how they are used by the artist to reinforce the theme, meaning, mood, or feeling of the artwork.	Accurately describes dominant elements and principles used by the architect/creator and accurately relates how these are used by the artist to reinforce the theme, meaning, mood, or feeling of the artwork.	Describes few dominant elements and principles used by the architect/creator, but has difficulty describing how these relate to the meaning or feeling of the artwork.	Struggles to identify the dominant elements.
<b>Compare and Contrast</b>	Makes a detailed comparison of two World War I memorials and relates how they help connect with collective memory.	Makes a comparison of some aspects of two World War I memorials and relates how they help connect with collective memory.	Makes a basic comparison of some aspects of of two World War I memorials and relates how they help connect with collective memory.	Comparisons are neither detailed nor complete.



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