

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: Memorialization

GRADE LEVEL/S: 6-8, 9-12

TIME NEEDED: 2-3 sessions

TEACHER: Leigh Wishney

LESSON TITLE:

CREATING A MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Common Core Standards

RH 2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

RH 7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

RH 8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

RH 9 Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

RH 10 Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- How do museums gather and organize objects and documents thematically?
- How do artifacts help us tell the story of 9/11?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will be able to explain the significance of a variety of primary sources.
- Students will be able to defend why they picked certain sources to support a theme.
- Students will understand the choices made in creating museum exhibitions

Key Terms

Exhibition, Rescue & Recovery, Tribute

Materials

- Poster board
- At least 1 computer per group & printers
- Markers

Background for lesson (if necessary)

Students need prior knowledge of the events of 9/11 (see [9/11 FAQ](#)).

**Instructional
Activity/
Procedures**

1. Ask students to write a response to the following questions: *What is the purpose of a museum? What attracts people to museums?*
2. Have students share their responses and facilitate a discussion based on their responses.
3. Place students into groups and hand out the [Creating A Museum Exhibit worksheet](#). Explain the task, goal, and end product of the activity.
4. Groups will first select a theme and then delegate responsibilities of each part of the exhibit.
5. Once groups finish their exhibits, each group will be responsible for explaining its poster to the class. Students should be sure to explain why they chose certain materials and how the materials connect to their essential question and theme.

**Evidence of
Understanding**

The exhibits and presentations will highlight students' ability to understand how artifacts help convey meanings and stories, the curatorial choices behind exhibits, and how those choices drive an exhibit's design and meaning.

**Extension
Activities**

- Students can engage in a "Museum Walk", writing comments and questions on Post-it Notes next to each exhibit. The exhibit designers will then address those notes in front of their exhibits.

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CREATING A MUSEUM EXHIBIT PLANNING SHEET

The purpose of a museum is to preserve a collection of artifacts and to educate the public. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum serves to educate the public about the events and impact of the 9/11 attacks.

TASK

Museums typically gather and organize their artifacts around a theme in order to convey a “story.” For this activity, your group will take on the role of museum planners. Your job will be to create a museum exhibit around one of the following themes:

- The day of the attacks
- Tributes & memorials
- Rescue & recovery

In order to plan your exhibition, your group will have to determine and outline the **essential message** and **key elements** of the exhibition story you are telling. List the different parts of the story that you will present, in order, so that your visitors reach the conclusion. Under each part of the story, list **artifacts** or **resources** that can be used to illustrate the point to the visitor.

You will use the Internet to gather resources and present your exhibit on the poster board provided. A checklist of expected parts of your exhibit will be provided.

Each group will present its exhibit to the rest of the class, making sure to explain the rationale through connections with themes and chosen artifacts.

ESSENTIAL MESSAGE:

Element 1: Artifacts/resources illustrating Element 1

Element 2: Artifacts/resources illustrating Element 2

Element 3: Artifacts/resources illustrating Element 3

MUSEUM EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Essential Message: Come up with an essential message that you want your visitors to take away from your exhibit. For example: “Firefighters responded heroically during the attacks of 9/11.”

Key Elements: Determine what elements you will incorporate to tell your story and “prove” your Essential Message.

Primary Sources: Each exhibit should have photographs, artifacts, or primary documents illustrating each Key Element.

Quotes: Each exhibit should have at least one thought-provoking quote about the theme. The quote can either be about the attacks or about the theme in general. The quote can also be from a newspaper headline.

HELPFUL LINKS:

- 9/11 Memorial Collection: www.911memorial.org/collection
- Smithsonian Museum: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/september11/collection/index.asp>
- Time Magazine: www.time.com/time/photoessays/shattered/index.html
- History Channel: www.history.com/topics/reaction-to-9-11/photos#9-11-world-trade-center
- Biography: www.biography.com/profiles-of-9-11/photo-gallery.jsp
- Newseum: www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/default_archive.asp?fpArchive=091201
- News Archives: www.september11news.com/