

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: Memorialization

GRADE LEVEL/S: 5-6

TIME NEEDED: 1 Session + Project

TEACHER: Ann Garvey

LESSON TITLE:

SYMBOLS OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION

Common Core Standards

W 1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

W 2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- What are the function of symbols?
- How do communities use symbols to commemorate important events and ideas?
- How can symbols help us to commemorate the events of 9/11?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students recognize that ideas and concepts may be conveyed through symbols.

Key Terms

Banner, Symbol

Materials

- Noun Project Website: www.thenounproject.com
- 9/11 Memorial Website: www.911memorial.org
- Pencil
- Paper
- Crayons
- Markers
- Paper for expressive writing activity
- Computer, where available

Background for lesson (if necessary)

This lesson may be used as a culminating activity. Students should be familiar with the events of 9/11 from prior learning.

Students should have an understanding and awareness of the role and prevalence of symbols (see the Noun Project for a searchable repository of images).

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Instructional Activity/ Procedures

1. Show students a sequence of symbols, asking them what they represent (See *Noun Project* for a searchable repository of images).

Possible examples include:

- Stop sign; Recycling symbol; Peace symbol (Symbols can have one meaning)
 - Light bulb; Lightning bolt (Symbols can have multiple meanings)
 - American Flag, Tree, Bald eagle (Symbols can mean different things to different people)
2. Tell students that symbols are images or objects that represent something – an idea, place, thing, or person. Reinforce that some symbols can mean one thing, while some mean different things to different people.
 3. Solicit other examples of symbols from students: *What are other symbols that come to mind? Where did you see them?*
 4. Remind students that symbols are everywhere, and they can often tell us a story and help us in other ways.
 5. Lead a review of the events of 9/11, highlighting both the attacks and the heroism throughout, specifically exhibited by first responders. Answer any outstanding questions, referencing the [9/11 FAQ](#), [9/11 Fact Sheet for Early Childhood Students](#) lesson or the 9/11 Memorial website.
 6. Tell students that you are going to design a class banner commemorating 9/11. The class will choose symbols that help memorialize the day, its victims, and heroes. Guided questions include: *What story do you want to tell? What symbols will you choose? Why? How should we integrate the different symbols together?* This activity can also be completed individually.
 7. Students present their banners explaining both orally and in writing why they selected certain symbols and the rationale behind their design.

Evidence of Understanding

The banners and written and oral rationales will reflect students' understanding of symbols and symbolism.

Extension Activities

Students in the class, grade or school may select (vote for) the banner that best captures the meaning of 9/11. Students may write explanations for their selections.

Show students the design for the 9/11 Memorial and solicit opinions on the final plans. Images can be found here: www.911memorial.org/photo-albums/911-memorial-renderings. Compare the symbolism of this memorial to other 9/11 Memorials. *What is the same, what is different?*