

# Marvellous Monuments



## Topic Focus

Properties of and changes in materials, rocks and working scientifically.

## Overview

The activities in this topic investigate the built heritage found in a burial ground from headstones and monuments to churches and lychgates. They encourage children to look closely at man-made features as well as investigate the varied range of materials found and used in burial grounds. The activities look closely at rocks by examining the stonework of built structures and encourage children to sharpen their observation and recording skills.

These activities are: Geology Rocks, Mission Materials, War Memorials and War Graves.

## EYFS, KS1 & KS2

### Key Skills

Investigating  
Comparing  
Contrasting  
Observing  
Explaining  
Examining

### Key Words

Properties  
Stone  
Rock  
Materials

## Curriculum Links

This topic helps develop pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding in Science and History.

### EYFS

Understanding the World  
People and communities  
Expressive Arts and Design  
Exploring and using materials and materials



## John Muir Award

*Discover*  
*Explore*  
*Conserve*  
*Share*



This section does not fit directly with badge work but gives an added dimension to Remembrance Sunday and the centenary of the First World War.

## War Memorials and War Graves

The suggested activities allow children to understand the purpose of war memorials, their features and the value of them to the local community. They also allow children to explore war graves found in the burial ground and in particular look at the headstone and the national emblem or regimental badge found on it.

### Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Identify the features of a war memorial
- Ask and answer questions about people from the past who lived in their local community

### Key Questions

**What do war memorials tell us? Why are war memorials so important? Why and how do we remember?**

### Resources

Drawing materials.

### Preparation

Before your visit you may wish to research one of the names found on your local war memorial. You may know a family member who would be happy to share their knowledge. They may have letters or photographs they would be happy to share with the children.

War Memorials Trust, the charity that works for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK, has a Learning Programme for young people. You will find lots of free information for schools and children about war memorials on the Trust's learning website at [www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org](http://www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org). They have developed a learning programme packed with ideas, lesson plans and help sheets to support children's learning about the history and significance of war memorials. In addition they have a Learning Officer and Learning Volunteers who can visit your school to talk to the children, take a lesson or lead an assembly.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the two world wars. You can find a database on their website [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) to search for information about each one of them.

### Introduction

Behind every name found on the memorial there is a human story. Gather around the memorial and share

with the children one of those stories. Share with them how and where the soldier died and where they are now buried. You may want to talk about how the families were informed in the 1st and 2nd World War about a loved one's death and discuss how the family would feel hearing the news. You may wish to ask the children to stand in silence for a short time and then ask: 'What were you thinking about during the silence?' Brainstorm words and thoughts.

### Activity Ideas

**1. Lest We Forget** – Examine the war memorial looking at the features, inscriptions, names and dates in detail.

**Discussion point** – Which war had the biggest impact on your area? How do you know? What would it have been like in your area at the time?

Find a quiet and peaceful place and draw the memorial in detail. Include all the features, inscriptions and dates. You may want to draw the memorial from a different angle to include different information and features.

**2. Badge Patrol** – The CWGC has information about the location of war graves in your local area. You will find details on their website.

Every war grave headstone contains the national emblem or regimental badge, rank, name, unit, date of death and age of each soldier. It may also have a more personal inscription. Locate the war grave headstones in your burial ground. Generally they are easy to spot. They are made from white Portland stone. Record the information on the headstone and pay particular attention to the regimental badge found in the centre. You may wish to sketch it, take a photograph of it or even take a rubbing of it.

### Back at School

#### Exciting Writing

- Research the regiment of the soldiers buried in the burial ground. Create a fact sheet about them and include a picture of the regimental badge.
- Create a Military Personnel Fact File.
- Search online at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) to find information about each name found on the war memorial in your local area.

Following your trip to the local war memorial you may wish to research more about 'Remembrance Day'. The Royal British Legion has a range of Remembrance Day lesson ideas on their website [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk).