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LOCAL
HERITAGE

We can sometimes live alongside something, or even someone, so familiar that we don't even notice it, or them. This is often true of local heritage, particularly when that heritage is from far in the past. A tremendous amount of information and data is accessible online in relation to World War One, and this module will suggest ways in which students can explore and learn from local memory and remembrance of the war to end all wars.

The following lesson plan draws heavily on the resources available for free online on www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org

This learning module will fit with Key Stage 3 History, Local and Global Citizenship and Art & Design.

WHAT ROLE DO MEMORIALS PLAY IN REMEMBERING THE PAST?

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

LEARN ABOUT WAR MEMORIALS

Provide the class with a selection of images of war memorials from different parts of the world, such as the Menin Gate, the Cenotaph, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Korean and/or Vietnam War Memorials in Washington DC, French and/or Belgian war graves.

(A powerpoint presentation of selected war memorials is available to download: <https://www.corrymeela.org/programmes/legacies-of-conflict/inspire-project.>)

Ask the students to remark on what they notice about these memorials. How is war commemorated? What inscriptions can be read and what do they intend to convey? Is there any difference between the memorials to more contemporary wars and the more distant ones?

Show the powerpoint presentation downloadable from <http://www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/secondary/sec-lessons/s1/> with the supporting teachers information and lesson plans. The lesson plans serve as an effective introduction to war memorials, their design and intention and on how they have changed over the years.



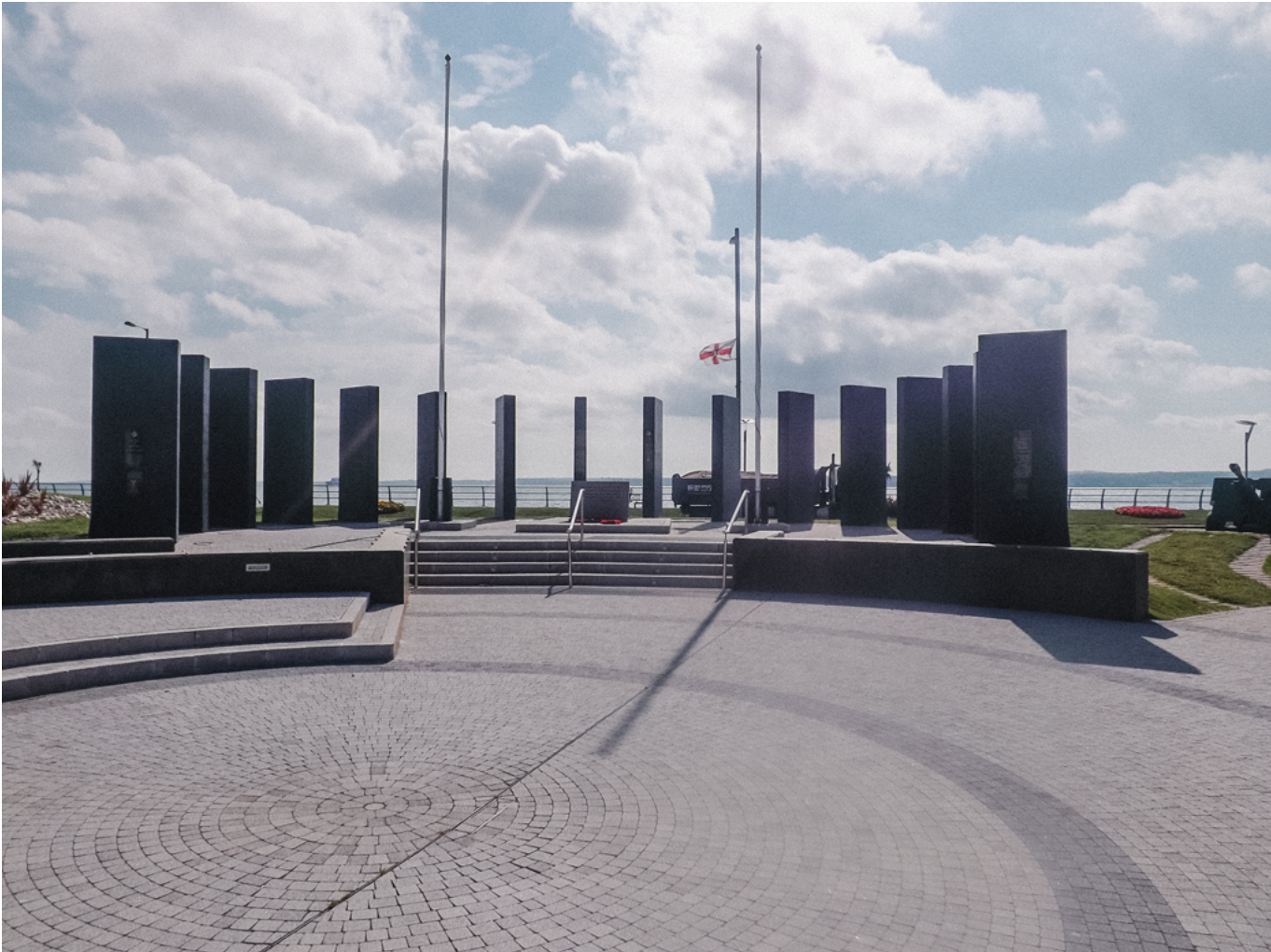
RESEARCH PROJECT

LOCAL MEMORIALS

Identify local war memorials which are accessible for the students. Remember these could be large public sculptures, or they could be plaques or windows in public buildings, in churches or in train stations for instance. Perhaps your school may even have a memorial.

If students are having difficulty identifying local memorials help can be found online on www.warmemorialsonline.org

Students could research a local and accessible war memorial.



First, research the location of the memorial and whether there is any particular association between the memorial and the site. For instance, some memorials are erected where civilians queued to enlist, or at the place from which newly enlisted soldiers marched off to war.

Second, examine the design of the memorial. Who designed it? Why this particular design? What materials? What inscription and how might it be understood today versus what it might have meant when it was erected? Are there any photographs or video footage of remembrance events around the memorial?

Local libraries or museums may have information in newspaper cuttings etc. on the commissioning, design and unveiling of the memorial and of local association with it.



GOING FURTHER

Having researched a local memorial, students could develop their learning about the history and heritage of the local area by choosing a name from the memorial. Students may even have relatives named on the memorial whom they could research.

Students could visit the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website on www.cwgc.org and input the chosen name into the database to find their war record.

Family information for the individual may be found by searching the database of the 1911 census. In Ireland visit www.census.nationalarchives.ie For England, Scotland and Wales visit www.ukcensusonline.com

Local libraries and museums may have information in newspaper cuttings, church magazines etc. on the individual concerned.

There is a useful video on doing this kind of research available <http://www.ataleofonecity.portsmouth.gov.uk/exhibitionmedia/the-community-toolkit-provides-advice-and-guidance-for-groups-embarking-upon-their-own-research-by-cass-productions/>

NOTES

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This learning module will fit with Key Stage 3 History, Local and Global Citizenship and Art & Design.

CROSS CURRICULAR SKILLS		
KEY ELEMENT		THINKING SKILLS & PERSONAL CAPABILITIES
Personal Understanding		a. Managing Information
Mutual Understanding		b. Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making
Moral Character		c. Being Creative
Cultural Understanding		d. Working with Others
Citizenship		e. Self-Management
Media Awareness		

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

There is additional material on war memorials in your local area on www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org and on www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

www.longlongtrail.co.uk provides information about soldiers, units, regiments and battles from World War One.

Gateways to the First World War is a centre for public engagement with the great War and can be accessed on www.gatewaysfww.org.uk

Should your school be interested in pursuing a more detailed or comprehensive local heritage project, funding may be available through the Heritage Lottery Fund on www.hlf.org.uk



Belfast
City Council



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An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade

