

Lesson Plan

Make a Monument

Book: *The Statue of Liberty*

Series: Visit and Learn

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students identify key details in a text and consider how a monument's design and location reflect its meaning.

Supplies

- *The Statue of Liberty* book
- Pencils and paper
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read *The Statue of Liberty* book out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide the class into groups of three. Give each student a pencil and multiple sheets of paper.

Activity

Monuments are structures that have historical interest or importance. Often, monuments represent ideas or values. The details, shape, or location of a monument might connect with these ideas or values. The Statue of Liberty is a monument with multiple meanings. Ask students to use Chapter 3 ("Liberty Lighting the World") to answer the following questions:

- What values or ideas does the Statue of Liberty represent? (Potential Answers: peace, friendship, slavery ending, immigration, independence, freedom)
- How does the location and design of the Statue of Liberty relate to these ideas? (Potential Answers: The statue stands on broken chains, many immigrants saw the statue when they first arrived in the United States, the statue holds a tablet that has the date July 4, 1776, written on it)

As a class, brainstorm some ideas or values that might be worth making a monument to represent. Write down a few of the best ideas on the whiteboard. Then, ask each group to pick one idea or value. In small groups, students will design their own monuments. Students should identify the idea or value that the monument will represent. They should decide where it will be located. They should also draw how it will look. Give groups several minutes to design their monuments. Then, invite each group to present its monument to the class, describing the idea it stands for and how its location and shape relate to that idea.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about a monument's symbolism and structure? Could students apply those concepts to create their own monuments?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.1).