

ON REFLECTION

GUIDANCE SHEET

WHY DESIGNING AND CREATING YOUR OWN MEMORIALS CAN ENRICH LEARNING:

People have been creating memorials for thousands of years. Memorials help us to remember or commemorate something or someone that we feel is important.

We may feel that an event should never be forgotten – perhaps because of tragic circumstances. Or we may want to remember and celebrate an achievement too.

WHY ARE MEMORIALS IMPORTANT?

Memorials often provide moments of quiet reflection in what can often be a busy world. Importantly, they offer an opportunity to remember people from the past.

We'd encourage you to focus on one individual if possible. By doing this, greater empathy can develop as we relate to that person on a deeply human level, rather than viewing them as anonymous statistics. Try and find out as much as you can about your chosen person to memorialise.

WHO SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Each generation is able to decide who to commemorate in their public spaces. Perhaps it is people who have always been overlooked – who don't have a blue plaque or public statue of their own, despite deserving one. There are lots of possibilities and we would encourage you to explore a wide range of people from the site.

By choosing to remember an individual, you might be:

- Giving status to someone denied it in their lifetime
 - Making a commitment to remember someone who has been forgotten
 - Creating your own form of social justice by trying to right a past wrong
 - Offering a compassionate portrayal of someone who experienced a difficult moment of history
 - Celebrating an under-recognised achievement
 - Choosing someone from your own community who you think mattered
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WHAT DOES A MEMORIAL LOOK LIKE?

Memorials can take many forms, including plaques, markers, or monuments. One could even be a dedicated bench. You could design a memorial that most suits the occasion or person you are remembering.

There are many memorials around the Highlands. You can explore some of them on this site:

- The Drownings Memorial in Portskerra – commemorating those who lost their lives at sea in storms of 1848, 1890 and 1918
- 'Kenn and the Salmon' – a sculpture which commemorates the centenary of the Highlands author Neil Gunn – by remembering a very famous scene in his writing, from the book Highland River.
- A memorial cairn to remember John Cobb who died in 1952 whilst trying to break the World Water Speed Record on Loch Ness. The plaque was designed by artist George Bain who had been sketching the event.

