



THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Lesson

HISTORY OF THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL

Deck

3, 4, & 5

Directions: Read the summary of the History of the Navy Memorial, underline, highlight, and answer the analysis question within the box. Once completed, move to the reflection activity on page 2.

The United States Navy Memorial is the triumph of a centuries-old dream for America's Sea Services (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine). When architect Pierre L'Enfant designed Washington, DC, he envisioned a memorial that would celebrate the rich heritage of the United States Navy, dating back to 1775 when a force of eight small wooden ships fought and won its first battle at sea.

L'Enfant's vision would be realized over two hundred years later. Navy legend and former Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Arleigh Burke decided there was enough "talk" about a Navy Memorial and that it was time to act. Burke and his Navy colleagues, including former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Tom Moore and former Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt worked together to form a non-profit organization called the "United States Navy Memorial Foundation" in the spring of 1977.

Under the leadership of Rear Admiral William Thompson, USN (Ret.), the United States Navy Memorial sought and received the blessing of Congress to construct a memorial on public land in the District of Columbia. A bill was introduced in the Senate and House in 1978 and was signed into law by President Carter – a U.S. Naval Academy graduate – in 1980. It would be built on the recently redeveloped Pennsylvania Avenue, also known as "America's main street" for its prime location between the White House and Capitol Building.

Immediately a call went out to the millions of Navy veterans and active duty to support the building of this memorial. 28 million dollars later the Lone Sailor was dedicated on the Navy Memorial on October 13th, 1987, the Navy's 212th birthday. It has served as a living tribute to the men and women of the Sea Services – past, present, and future – for more than 30 years. The United States Navy Memorial is home to the Memorial Plaza, which features the famous statue, The Lone Sailor. The Lone Sailor, a tribute to all personnel of the sea services, overlooks the Granite Sea, an exact replication of the world's oceans. Surrounding the Granite Sea are two fountain pools, honoring the personnel of the American Navy and the other navies of the world. The southern hemisphere of the Granite Sea is surrounded by 26 bronze plaques commemorating events, personnel, and communities of the various sea services. <https://www.navy memorial.org/about-usnm>

Why was the Navy Memorial a triumph of a centuries-old dream?

When was the Navy Memorial designed and built?

Who helped fund the construction of the Navy Memorial? Why is this significant?



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Directions: Read the summary of the History of the Navy Memorial, answer the reflection questions using complete sentences.

1. Based on the reading, what is the purpose of the Navy Memorial?

2. Based on the reading, what is the purpose of the Navy Memorial?

3. Based on the reading, what is the purpose of the Navy Memorial?

4. Write a 2-stanza poem using any style to describe the story and purpose of the Navy Memorial.



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Directions: Read the summary of the History of the Navy Memorial, answer the reflection questions using complete sentences.

- 5.** Draw a picture that represents the story and purpose of the Navy Memorial.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw a picture representing the story and purpose of the Navy Memorial.

Engagement Challenge:

Don't just complete the activities created by the Navy Memorial Education Department, show us how you are doing by emailing this completed activity to education@navymemorial.org
For more information about the Engagement Challenge, visit: <https://www.navymemorial.org/competitions>