

What this topic covers

In this topic pupils will learn:

- what a war memorial is and the different types of war memorials there are – not only in the Coalville area, but further afield
- key facts and figures about Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower
- how to research information about the soldiers who are commemorated on Coalville's war memorials

What you will need

Resource Sheet A: War memorials and inscriptions

Teacher's Slides A: War Memorials and Remembrance events

Resource Sheet B: Remembrance events

Resource Sheet C: The creation of Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower

Resource Sheet D: Coalville's war heroes

Teacher's Slides C - D: Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower and war heroes

Teacher's Handout E: Who is commemorated on the Memorial Clock Tower?

Teacher's Handout F: United States WWI Draft Registration Card

Curriculum links

English

- reading background information and learning new vocabulary; applying archive information to a written task

Computing

- use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content
- use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content

History

- a study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality
- gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history

Art and Design

- use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination

Task 1: Let's learn about war memorials

 How long will this activity take? 2 hours

What you will need

Resource Sheet A: War memorials and inscriptions

Resource Sheet B: Remembrance events

Teacher's Slides A: War memorials and Remembrance events

Learning Activity

Use the Teacher's Slides A to deliver the information in Resource Sheets A and B.

Discuss new concepts and words such as 'memorial', 'symbol' and 'fallen'.

Ask your pupils if they have attended a remembrance event. How did it make them feel?

You can search 'showcase war memorials' on the War Memorials Trust website: www.war memorials.org



Task 2: Let's research the people behind the names

 How long will this activity take? 2 hours

What you will need

Resource Sheet C: The creation of Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower

Resource Sheet D: Coalville's war heroes

Teacher's Handout E: Who is commemorated on the Memorial Clock Tower

Teacher's Handout F: United States WWI Draft Registration Card

Teacher's Slides C - D: Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower and war heroes

Using the Teachers Slides C -D deliver the information provided in Resource Sheets C and D.

Give each pupil the Teacher's Handout E and allow them time to read through the ask any questions.

(60 mins)

Ask your pupils to log on to the Leicestershire War Memorial's website and answer the following questions about two of the soldiers we have featured on the Handout:

1. Private Arthur William Concannon is commemorated on the Memorial Clock Tower. He was a good sportsman – which sports did he compete in? [Answer – athletics and boxing]
2. i) Where was Private Charles Cavendish originally from? ii) Do you think he had an easy life before going to war? iii) How did his relatives help after the war? iv) What does his story tell you about families 'pulling together' after the war?

Answers: i) Gordon Charles was born in 1885 in Notting Hill, Middx. ii) No, life must have been challenging for Charles; his parents moved back to London when he was 16 and he stayed in Coalville. He went into mining which was a tough and dangerous job iii) a niece of his adoptive parents raised three of his children and he wife's sister brought up their youngest. It is not known what happened to the fourth child. iv) many people were poor as they were left to raise children on their own without a husband and families and communities had to support one another.

(15 mins)

Now ask your pupils to select the details of any other soldier from Coalville or a surrounding village listed on the Leicestershire Memorial's Website – they may be commemorated on the Clock Tower or any other war memorial in a local village.

Can you identify how old they were when they joined the army, what their profession was and if they were married?

Ask pupils to complete the Teacher's Handout F: Draft Registration Card with their details.

(15 mins)

Task 3: Write a newspaper article about the unveiling ceremony

 How long will this activity take? 1 hour

What you will need

Teacher's Slides A: War memorials and remembrance events

Resource Sheet B: Remembrance events

Resource Sheet C: The creation of Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower

Teacher's Slides C - D: Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower and war heroes

Work through the information on Resource Sheets B and C using the relevant slides from Teacher's Slides A and Slides C - D.

Discuss the significance of the military procession, Last Post and the laying of wreaths.

Why was Mary Booth invited to perform the unveiling of the Memorial Clock Tower?

Learning Activity

Write a newspaper article for the Coalville Times, as if you were reporting on the unveiling event in 1925.

Remember to include:

- A description of the Memorial Clock Tower (size, what it is made from, who built it)
- Who the Memorial Clock Tower commemorates
- Biographical details of Mary Booth
- The number of people who attended
- Describe the mood
- If pupils have time, you could ask them to make up a quote from a relative who lost someone in the War, about how they feel about the Memorial Clock Tower

(60 mins)

Task 4: Design your own memorial

 How long will this activity take? 1 hour

What you will need

Teacher's Slides A: War memorials and Remembrance events

Resource Sheet B: Remembrance events

Resource Sheet C: The creation of Coalville's Memorial Clock Tower

Construction materials such as paper, card, old cardboard boxes/ tubes, coloured plastic sheets, and pipe-cleaners

Learning Activity

Work through the information provided in Resource Sheets B & C using the Teacher's Slides A to support learning.

Now ask your pupils to design and build their own war memorial to remember the soldiers from Coalville who have died in World Wars or a recent conflict.

Before they start working on their creation, ask them to decide on what format it will take – a monument, stained glass window or perhaps a sculpture of some sort? Where will it be located?

How will it commemorate the fallen? Are the names inscribed on a plaque or are people remembered in another way? Is there any other inscription?

Ask them to choose the construction materials they will use, taking into account strength and durability, as well as appearance.

If time is available you could ask pupils to write a description of their war memorial for submission to the Leicestershire War Memorials website

(60 mins)