



Unit: Soldiers

Lesson 1.8: Civil War Monuments in Brooklyn

Aim: To contemplate and discuss the purpose of monuments and study several Civil War monuments in Brooklyn.

Objective: Students discuss the purpose of monuments, examine several Brooklyn monuments of the Civil War, and write about them.

Materials:

1. Photos of Civil War monuments (one per group)
 - Clarence D. Mackenzie
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc027.html> and
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc028.html>
 - Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/cwdoc101.html>
 - Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch close-up
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/cwdoc102.html>
 - Henry Ward Beecher
<http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/civilwar/cwdoc105.html>

Procedure:

1. Class discussion: What is a monument? Why are they built? Ask class to think of examples of famous monuments or any monuments they have seen.
2. Distribute photos of Civil War monuments in Brooklyn, one to each group of students. Students study monuments and create a list of detailed observations describing them.
3. Use the list to write a descriptive paragraph about the monument.
4. Display all 4 photos in front of room or on overhead.
5. Students read aloud paragraphs and try to match with correct photo.
6. Optional: Collect and edit, then type up anonymous descriptions. Create a display in which students are able to read the descriptions and match them with the photo of the correct monument.

Follow-Up:

Ask students to design their own monuments. First they must think of a subject. What hero or event do they wish to recognize and commemorate? Why?

Allow students the choice of representing their statue/monument with either words or a picture. Those who choose to write about it should give a detailed description so that a partner is able to interpret or translate the writing into a picture, and vice versa.

Field Trip Opportunity:

Refer to NYC Parks Department listing (link below) for a complete list of Civil War sites in Brooklyn:

www.morrisville.edu/library/local_history/sites/cw_monum/kings.html

Take a class field trip to one of the monuments. Bring disposable cameras and sketch pads so that students can draw and photograph the actual monuments.