Monuments and Memorials
Worksheet

1. This is the Washington Monument, one of the most visited landmarks in the United States. What strikes you about its appearance and features? List at least three things that stand out to you.

2. The Washington Monument was built to honor George Washington. List at least five things you know about the country’s first president.

3. Why might this monument be a fitting way to celebrate Washington’s legacy and his contributions to the United States?

4. The construction of the Washington Monument began in 1848 but had to be halted soon after. The monument was finally finished in the 1880s. Why might its completion have been delayed?

5. This is the Lincoln Memorial, which was dedicated in 1922 and has been one of the country’s most visited tourist sites ever since. Use the Camera to look inside the building. Describe three features of this famous American landmark.
6. List at least three facts that you know about Abraham Lincoln.

7. How does the Memorial do a good job of celebrating Lincoln and representing his significance for United States history? List at least two ways.

8. Although built in the early-20th century, the Lincoln Memorial borrows architectural themes from ancient Greece. Find and describe at least two similarities between the Lincoln Memorial and the Parthenon, the famous temple from ancient Athens.

9. You might have noticed that both the Parthenon and the Lincoln Memorial have marble columns. This particular style of column is known as Doric, and it was popular in Greece during the Classical Era. Why might architects have designed the Lincoln Memorial to be reminiscent of ancient Greece?

10. This is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which was built in honor of the American soldiers who died or went missing in the Vietnam War. The memorial was opened in 1982 and has been widely celebrated for its emotionally impactful design. It is also rather different than the two other landmarks you have looked at already in this lesson. Use the Camera to get a closer look. Describe at least three differences that stand out to you.
11. This is the memorial for Martin Luther King, Jr. It was opened in 2011, 48 years after MLK delivered the famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington. Five years after that event he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. There are two quotes visible on the memorial. Use the Camera to help you read the quotes. What are they? Why do you think they were chosen for this memorial?

12. The “drum major” quote was controversial when the MLK Memorial first opened, and it has since been changed. Why might some people have objected to the prominent use of this quote on the memorial?

13. Another quote carved into the MLK Memorial but not visible on this particular model reads: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Put this quote into your own words.

14. One of the themes of the MLK Memorial is “stone,” the primary material for the memorial and a word used in one of its quotes. Why might the designers have chosen this theme to memorialize MLK?

15. Given what you have learned in this activity, what do you think makes for an impactful monument or memorial? List at least three things.