



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was designed by Maya Lin, a 21-year old student from Yale University, whose entry beat out more than 1,400 other submissions in a design competition for the new memorial. At the time of its unveiling in 1982, the minimalist design generated a fierce backlash and negative reaction. Today, however, Lin's design is highly regarded and considered one of the finest examples of memorial architecture. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Learn about who and what inspired the memorial.
READ: <http://www.vvmf.org/the-memorial-history>



Learn more about the history of the memorial and read the stories of some of the veterans who are memorialized on its wall.
READ: <http://www.vvmf.org/wall-facts>

1. What was the purpose of building the Vietnam Veterans memorial? What were some criteria it had to meet?

2. What information is listed on the memorial? What is the significance of the diamond or cross? When might these symbols change, and how?

3. When did construction of the memorial start and end?

4. Name three facts about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. What kind of emotions do you think the Vietnam Veterans Memorial evokes? Why?

2. When we visit this memorial, why do you think we should be quiet and respectful?

3. Explain why it might be difficult for veterans of the Vietnam War to visit this memorial.