

Race to the Moon

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. Alan Shepard was the _____.
 A president of the United States
 B first American in space
 C first person to orbit the moon
 D first person to orbit the Earth
2. The first human in space was _____.
 A astronaut Neil Armstrong
 B astronaut John Glenn, Jr.
 C cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin
 D cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova
3. How would you summarize the space race of the 1960s?

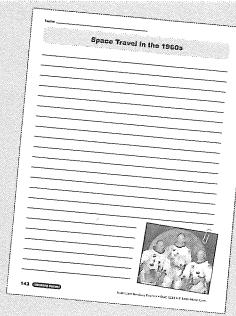
4. What effect did Sputnik have on America's space program?

5. Can you think of a reason why the astronauts left a plaque on the moon?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

List the “firsts” achieved by both the United States and the Soviet Union in space.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Level 1

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

A Moving Memorial

Fill in the circle by the correct answer.

A Moving Memorial

If you go to Washington, D.C., you can see several monuments and memorials that are reminders of American heroes. One of these Veterans Memorials is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is being built right now. It will be a wall that honors the service men and women who died or were missing in action in the Vietnam War.

A Missing Kind of Memorial

Many people created a Vietnam Veterans Memorial when a school group from Massachusetts held a contest to help plan the memorial. Each of the four groups won \$1,000. The group that won the contest came up with the idea of a moving plan.

The idea behind the memorial was to present it to My Lai, like the one that took place in 1972. The wall will be long. The way it moves depends on how many people are off to see it. As more people who were killed in the war are moved off, the wall starts to move. The name of each person who died is written on the wall. The name is removed as they die. The name is never lost. The names are arranged so that they are always in the same order.

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Explaining the War

The students started a memorial in 1982. They wanted to make sure that they did not forget about the war. But they did not know how. They visited the Vietnam War Memorial and realized that they were interested in the highly polished stone surface. They decided to use stones and sticks and make rubbings with paper and pencil. They used stones and sticks to make the wall. Today, over 3 million people still visit the wall. Some say it is the most popular attraction in Washington. The experience for many visitors is to feel the connection with their loved ones.

What is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?

The simple structure of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is shown above.

National Building Museum Photo © 1982

184 Vietnam Veterans Memorial B

Vietnam Veterans Memorial B

Level 2 ■ ■

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Level 3

Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

Assemble the Unit

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: Map of the National Mall, page 151
 - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
 - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
 - Writing Form: Thank You, page 152

Introduce the Topic

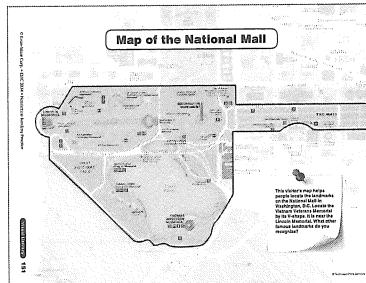
Read aloud and discuss the map and caption on page 151. Explain that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Tell students that the V-shaped wall is one of the most popular memorials for visitors to Washington.

Read and Respond

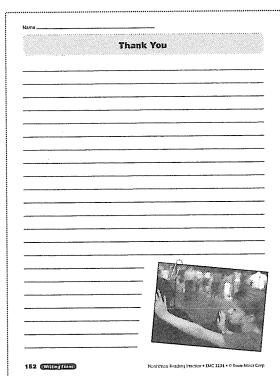
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

Write About the Topic

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.

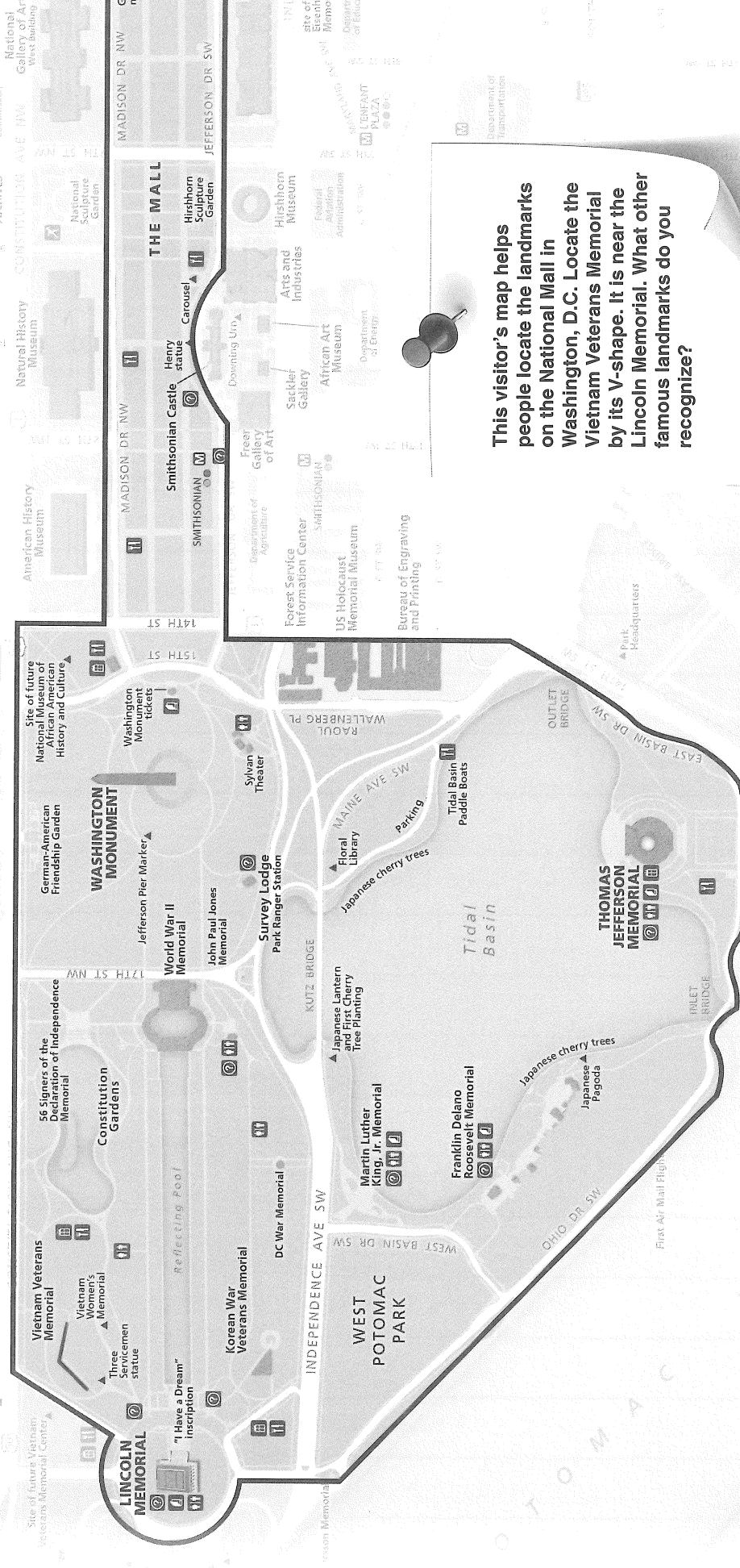


Visual Literacy



Writing Form

Map of the National Mall



This visitor's map helps people locate the landmarks on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Locate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial by its V-shape. It is near the Lincoln Memorial. What other famous landmarks do you recognize?

Thank You

A black and white photograph of a young girl with dark hair, wearing a dark t-shirt, looking up at a large, dark plaque. The plaque is held by a hand visible on the left side. The plaque has several names engraved on it, including "JIMMY", "BRETT", "SAL", and "MAXIM". A paperclip is attached to the top left corner of the plaque. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with trees.



Words to Know

A Moving Memorial

museums
memorials
polished
missing in action
college
contest
tapered
pressure
vision
dedicated
mementos
tribute
sacrificed

Words to Know

A Lasting Tribute

tribute
museums
monuments
memorials
polished
tapering
disagreements
contest
submitted
objections
pressure
dedicated
reflections
mementos
sacrificed

Words to Know

Honoring Vietnam Veterans

museums
memorials
polished
vision
contest
jurors
tapered
disagreements
discrimination
objections
dedicated
mementos
enduring
tribute
sacrificed



A Moving Memorial

If you go to Washington, D.C., you can see national museums and memorials that are reminders of America's history. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands on the National Mall. This striking memorial is a long, black, polished, V-shaped wall. It honors the service men and women who died or were missing in action in the Vietnam War.

A Different Kind of Memorial

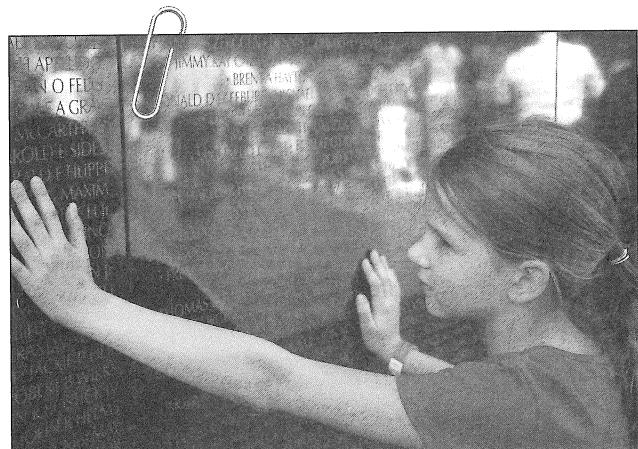
Maya Lin created the Vietnam Veterans Memorial when she was still a college student and just 21 years old. A contest was held in 1981 to choose a plan for the memorial. Each of the 1,400 plans was given a number. That way, the contest judges did not know who had entered plans. Maya Lin's plan was chosen as the most outstanding.

The ideas behind the memorial were important to Maya Lin. Like the war that lasted from 1955 to 1975, the wall is long. The war started small, grew large, and then tapered off. So the wall starts low and grows higher before tapering off. The name of every American man and woman who was killed or missing in action in the war is carved on it. The names are arranged in order by when they died. There are more than 58,000 names.

Like the Vietnam War itself, the memorial caused people to disagree. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial looked simpler than other memorials. Some people thought it was too plain. They thought a memorial should have statues of heroes. Others did not like the dark color of the wall. Others objected because Lin was young and still a college student. Some people were against her because she was a woman and because her parents were Asian. (She was born in the U.S.) Maya Lin stood up to the pressure. The attention did not make her change her plan, because she had a clear vision for the memorial.

Experiencing the Wall

The memorial was dedicated in 1982. People came to look at it. But they did not just look. They walked the full length of it and read the names on it. They saw themselves mirrored in the highly polished stone surface. They tearfully touched the names of loved ones and made rubbings with paper and pencil. They brought mementos and flowers to place by the wall. Today, over 3 million people still visit the memorial each year and do this. It is a moving experience for many. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a lasting tribute to those who sacrificed their lives.



The simple structure of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial allows visitors to get in close.

A Moving Memorial

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. A structure that is a reminder of events and people is called a _____.
 A building
 B contest
 C memorial
 D museum
2. Maya Lin wanted people who visited the memorial to experience _____.
 A statues of heroes
 B disagreements
 C meaningful ideas and strong feelings
 D being under pressure
3. Maya Lin believed in herself and in her plan. Write a sentence from the text that supports this statement.

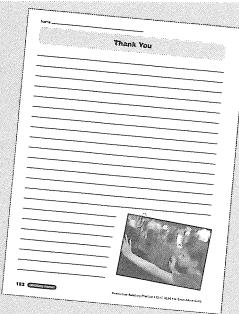
4. Lin thought carefully about the ideas in her plan for the memorial. Think of a reason or reasons why she may have wanted people to see themselves in the polished stone.

5. What talents do you think Maya Lin possessed that helped her to win the contest?

Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Write a letter to a veteran to thank him or her for serving the nation. Tell why his or her work is important.



A Lasting Tribute

If you go to Washington, D.C., you can visit national museums, monuments, and memorials that honor America's history. At one end of the National Mall, near the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, stands another memorial. It is a long, black, polished, V-shaped wall. It is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which honors the service men and women who died in the Vietnam War.

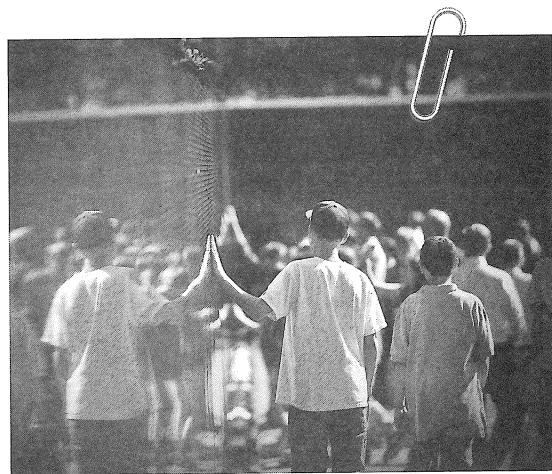
Not Just Stone, But Ideas

The ideas behind the memorial were important to the woman who created it, Maya Lin. Her Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unlike other memorials that came before it. It had no statues, and it was simple to look at. Like the war that lasted from 1955 to 1975, the wall is long. The war started small, grew large, and then tapered off. So the wall starts low and grows higher before tapering off. Unlike many other memorials, the name of every American man and woman who was killed or missing in action is carved on it. The names are arranged in order by when they died. There are more than 58,000 names.

Like the Vietnam War itself, the memorial caused disagreements among people. A contest was held in 1981 to choose a plan for the memorial. Maya Lin was only 21 years old and a college student at Yale University. The contest judges did not know the names of the 1,400 people who submitted plans, only their numbers. The judges chose Maya Lin's plan. Some people did not like the color of the wall, and others thought a memorial needed statues of heroes. Others did not like the fact that the planner was a young woman, or that she had been born to Asian parents. Their objections did not make Maya Lin change her plan. She stood up to the pressure.

Dedication

When the memorial was dedicated in 1982, people came to see it. They did not just look, however. They experienced the wall, walking quietly along the length of it and reading the names. They saw their own reflections in the highly polished stone surface. They tearfully touched the names of their loved ones and made rubbings with paper and pencil. They brought mementos and flowers to place by the wall. Each year since, over 3 million people have visited the memorial to do this. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is recognized as a lasting tribute to those who sacrificed all.



Visitors to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial see themselves mirrored in the wall. A catalog at the beginning of the wall helps them find a name.

A Lasting Tribute

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then write the answers to numbers 3, 4, and 5.

1. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial _____.
 (A) was built from 1955 to 1975
 (B) was planned by a group of judges
 (C) should not be touched
 (D) is carved with more than 58,000 names
 2. Maya Lin's plan for the memorial was _____.
 (A) chosen out of 1,400 plans
 (B) a statue of heroes
 (C) similar to most memorials
 (D) made without much thought
 3. What does it say about Maya Lin that she entered the contest and won even while she was still a student?
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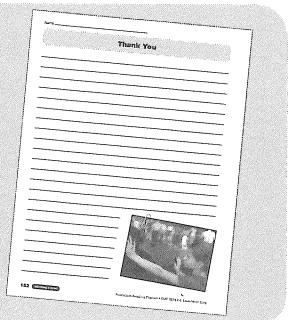
4. Visiting the wall is a moving experience for many people. Write a sentence from the text that supports this statement.
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5. Why do you think Maya Lin chose polished stone for the memorial?
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Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Write a letter to Maya Lin thanking her for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Tell her why her work was important.



Honoring Vietnam Veterans

Visitors to Washington, D.C., can see national museums, monuments, and memorials that are reminders of America's history. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands on the National Mall. This striking memorial is a long, black, polished, V-shaped wall. It honors the service men and women who died or were missing in action in the Vietnam War.

A Planner with Vision

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was created by Maya Lin, who was a college student and just 21 years old. A contest was held in 1981 to choose a plan for the memorial. The contest jurors did not know the names of the 1,400 people who submitted their plans, only each plan's number. Maya Lin's plan was chosen as the most outstanding.

The ideas behind the memorial were important to Maya Lin. Like the war that lasted from 1955 to 1975, the wall is long. The war started small, grew large, and then tapered off. So the wall starts low and grows higher before tapering off. Different from many other memorials, the name of every American man and woman who was killed or missing in action is carved on it. The names are arranged in order by when they died. There are more than 58,000 names.

Like the Vietnam War itself, the memorial caused disagreements among people. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unlike other memorials. It had a simple look. Some people thought it was too plain, or they did not like the color of the wall, or they thought the memorial should have statues of heroes. Others objected because Lin was young and still a college student at Yale University. She faced discrimination because she was a woman and because her parents were Asian. (She was born in the U.S.) The objections did not make Maya Lin change her plan, because she had a clear vision for the memorial. She stood up to the pressure.

A Popular Memorial

When the memorial was dedicated in 1982, people came to see it. They experienced the wall by quietly walking the full length of it and reading the names. They saw themselves reflected in the highly polished stone surface. They tearfully touched the names of loved ones and made rubbings with paper and pencil. They brought mementos and flowers to place by the wall. Today, over 3 million people visit the memorial each year and do this. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is an enduring tribute to those who sacrificed everything.



Visiting the memorial can be a very moving experience for many people.