

“Remember Me”

An educational program on famous Civil War figures in Arkansas

Essential Question

What is a hero? Why should society memorialize certain people and not others? Why or why not?

Objectives

- Students will critically think about who we study in history and why.
- Students will learn about historic figures in Arkansas’s Civil War past.
- Students will learn to work in groups.
- Students will analyze who they consider heroes.

Guiding Questions

- What circumstances determine if a person is remembered?
- Do the people who are remembered and memorialized have similar stories that give cause for them to be remembered?
- Why do we as a society feel the need to memorialize certain people from our civil war and not others?

Key Terms

- Martyr – a person who is killed or suffers greatly because of his or her beliefs or actions.
- Hero – a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.
- Memorialize – to preserve the memory of; publicly commemorate with a statue, monument, speech, etc.
- Artifact – a simple object that was made by people in the past.

Program Overview

Within the museum is a stained glass window memorializing David Owen Dodd, a 17 year old boy hanged by the Federal army in Little Rock as a Confederate spy during the Civil War. In the years following the war, Dodd became known as the “boy martyr of the Confederacy.” His story has captivated audiences for years, and in 1984 the Sons of Confederate Veterans awarded him the Confederate Medal of Honor. There are more monuments to Dodd in Arkansas than to any other of its war heroes.

In a war that created such historical figures as Robert E. Lee, U.S. Grant, “Stonewall” Jackson, and others, “Remember Me” is an educational program that focuses on specific Arkansans during the Civil War. Each of the featured Arkansan has a unique and different story, with some better known than others. “Remember Me” looks at those stories more closely, examining how and why 150 years later our society still feels the need to memorialize these individuals. But what about those Arkansans whose stories are not told? Whose likeness is not made into a bronze statue or portrait hanging in a museum? Are their stories, trials and tribulations any less than those few our society has determined needs to be remembered? And how does this transcend into our culture and society

today? During this program, students will reflect upon who they memorialize and why, with the intention of looking deeper at what makes a “hero” or a person worth remembering.

Activity

Using the jigsaw method, students are divided into four or five groups. Each group is assigned a different historical figure from Arkansas’s Civil War past and whose story is told within the museum. Each group studies the person they are assigned by the use of handouts and artifacts. After having time to read, discuss and reflect, groups will present their findings to the rest of the class. In completing the process, students will collectively discover that the reasons why a person is remembered and memorialized are complex. Each story is unique to society’s time and place. In conclusion, as a society we choose to remember the few, but should we forget the many?

Time Frame

One hour.

Who for

Grades 3 - 12

Materials Provided

- Handouts that focus on four Arkansans during the Civil War
- Primary and secondary objects within the museum

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.9: Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.9: Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.9: Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Arkansas State Frameworks

H.6.3.2	Examine historical people and events of Arkansas
H.6.5.21	Identify and locate significant Civil War sites of the Union and Confederacy
H.6.5.32	Identify the role of the following Arkansans in the Civil War (David O. Dodd)
SR.5.AH.7-8.5	Identify the contributions of noteworthy Arkansans during the Civil War period
SR.5.AH.7-8.7	Identify the major Civil War battlefields in and near Arkansas
SR.5.AH.9-12.5	Analyze the contributions of noteworthy Arkansans during the Civil War period