

## Lesson Plan

### Design a Monument

**Book:** *Exploring the Gateway Arch*

**Series:** Travel America's Landmarks

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students identify key details in a text and consider how a monument's shape and location reflect its meaning.

### Supplies

- *Exploring the Gateway Arch* book
- Pencils and paper

### Before the Activity

Read *Exploring the Gateway Arch* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide the class into groups of three. Give each student a pencil and multiple sheets of paper.

### Activity

A monument is a building or structure that is of historical interest or importance. Often, a monument stands for an idea or a value. The monument's location or shape may connect with the idea or value it represents. The Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, is a monument, and it has several meanings. Have students use Chapter 3 ("Many Symbols") to answer the following questions:

- What values or ideas does the Gateway Arch stand for? (Answer: exploration, freedom, and change)
- How does the Gateway Arch's location or shape relate to these ideas? (Answers: The Gateway Arch is located near where an important journey to the West began. The two legs of the Arch frame the Old Courthouse, where US laws have changed.)

In small groups, students will design their own monuments. Students should identify the idea or value that the monument represents. They should decide where the monument would be located. They should also draw how it would look. Give groups several minutes to design their monuments. Then, invite each group to present its monument to the class, describing the idea it stands for and how its location and shape relate to that idea.

**Evaluation**

Could students answer the questions about a monument's symbolism and structure? Could students apply those concepts to creating their own monuments?

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.1).