

**NATIONAL
MEMORIAL
ARBORETUM**

Part of the Royal British Legion



**Learning Groups
Self-Led Pack**

Welcome to the National Memorial Arboretum

At the Arboretum we welcome over 20,000 children through our doors every year through a wide variety of activities, helping them to develop not only an understanding of Remembrance but also the opportunity to connect through cross circular activities to enhance a range of other subjects including science, literacy, and geography.

Our 150-acre site, rich natural landscape, breathtaking memorials and multi-functional classroom spaces offer the perfect setting to inspire and engage students and bring the curriculum to life. The information in this pack will help you to do this.

Key Points and Expectations

We are proud of the National Memorial Arboretum and work hard to maintain all areas to a high standard for visitors. To achieve this, we have expectations to ensure all visitors have an enjoyable visit.

Key points

1. All learning groups must complete a booking form and send it to education@thenma.org.uk
The form can be found on our website or alternatively we can email it to you.
2. All learning vehicles can park for free. Coaches are able to drop off directly outside the Remembrance Centre, and will then be directed to a suitable parking area.
3. There is currently nowhere on site for students or teachers to store any belongings. Students will need to carry their bags with them.
4. At lunch, we politely ask that you use the undercover seating in Heroes' Square or eating spaces out on site. Should the weather cause a problem, please speak to a member of staff who will try to arrange alternative seating.

[Click to find our booking form](#)



Student Expectations

1. All areas of the Arboretum are treated with respect.
2. Walking sensibly around site.
3. No climbing on memorials.
4. Speaking quietly in particularly poignant areas of site e.g. whilst on top of the Armed Forces Memorial.

Teacher Expectations

1. You have come on a familiarisation visit or spoken to one of our learning officers before your visit. We are a 150-acre site with over 400 memorials, and it is important to have a plan for your day.
2. You have completed a Risk Assessment before visiting.
3. Where secondary students are allowed to walk around the site unsupervised, we ask that they are split into groups of no more than 10 and that they are given a specific task to be focusing on during this time. You can find worksheets later on in this guide or alternatively can get in touch with a member of our team for advice on activities.
4. You have watched and shown our short National Memorial Arboretum video to the students before the visit so they know what to expect. You can access the video below. It will also be emailed to you prior to your visit.

[Click to find our risk assessment guide](#)

[Click to watch our student video](#)



Formal Learning Offer

We offer a range of activities for Key Stage One through to Key Stage Four that support various curriculum-based objectives through a fully inclusive learning programme. Using our memorials, children explore the stories of relevant people and discover why the Arboretum is important.

Explorer Days

Our Explorer Days consist of 90 minutes in our learning centre and a 90-minute Guided Tour and Act of Remembrance. These cover various topics including the First and Second World Wars, The Holocaust and Medals.

Shorter Activity

If you would prefer to have an activity which complements your own self-led visit, you may wish to choose from a 90-minute Guided Tour, 30-minute Act of Remembrance, or 30-minute Poppy activity to discover the origins of the Poppy.

Email: education@thenma.org.uk

Phone: **01283 245 119** or **01283 245 133**

A member of our learning team will be happy to assist.

Planning your day

If you are booked onto an Explorer Day, then your whole day will be timetabled by our learning team. However, if some or all of your day is self-led then please use this page to support you in planning this. The rest of this pack also provides a map, information on some key memorials and suggested worksheets.



Free activities

Landscapes of Life Exhibition

This is an interactive exhibition which explores Remembrance through the ages. It also shines a light on some of our key memorials on site and features a short video looking at the Arboretum through the seasons.

Alternative Exhibitions

We have two other exhibition spaces which feature different exhibitions throughout the year. Head to our website to find out more.

Daily Act of Remembrance

Participate in an Act of Remembrance and observe a moving two-minute silence. It is appreciated if visitors are seated by 10.50am in the Chapel for the consideration of others.

Time: 11.00am

Location: Millennium Chapel

Living Remembrance

A 20 minute talk looking at the past, present and future of Remembrance at the Arboretum.

Time: Ask for time on arrival

Location: Ask for location on arrival

Far East Prisoners of War Talk

During the Second World War fighting in the Far East was brutal and conditions were unimaginable. Those taken as prisoners of war experienced harsh treatment and many never returned home. Join one of our volunteers outside the Far East Prisoners of War Memorial Building to hear about the men and women who served in this region and how their contribution resulted in Victory over Japan in 1945. Suitable for KS3.

Time: Ask for time on arrival

Location: Far East Prisoners of War Building

Armed Forces Memorial Talk

The Armed Forces Memorial is a nationally significant focus for Remembrance, providing recognition and thanks for those who have given their lives in the service of their country since the end of the Second World War. Learn more about this moving monument and the symbolism in its design. Suitable for KS2 upwards.

Time: Ask for time on arrival

Location: Armed Forces Memorial

Shot At Dawn Talk

This moving talk highlights the story of the 309 soldiers shot at dawn during the First World War who were later posthumously pardoned. Suitable for KS3 upwards.

Time: Ask for time on arrival

Location: Shot at Dawn Memorial

Chargeable activity

Land Train Tours

We also offer Land Train Tours complete with pre-recorded commentary. The Land Train takes 50 minutes and is accessible for manual wheelchair users.

Please note, the Land Train does not operate during some winter months. Please get in touch with a member of the learning team to check it is available.

Book in advance with the Learning team to receive a discount price.

Accessibility

We strive to make our site accessible to all who visit us.

[Click to find our accessibility guide](#)

If you have any concerns regarding access, please get in touch with a learning officer prior to your visit.



Pre and post visit resources

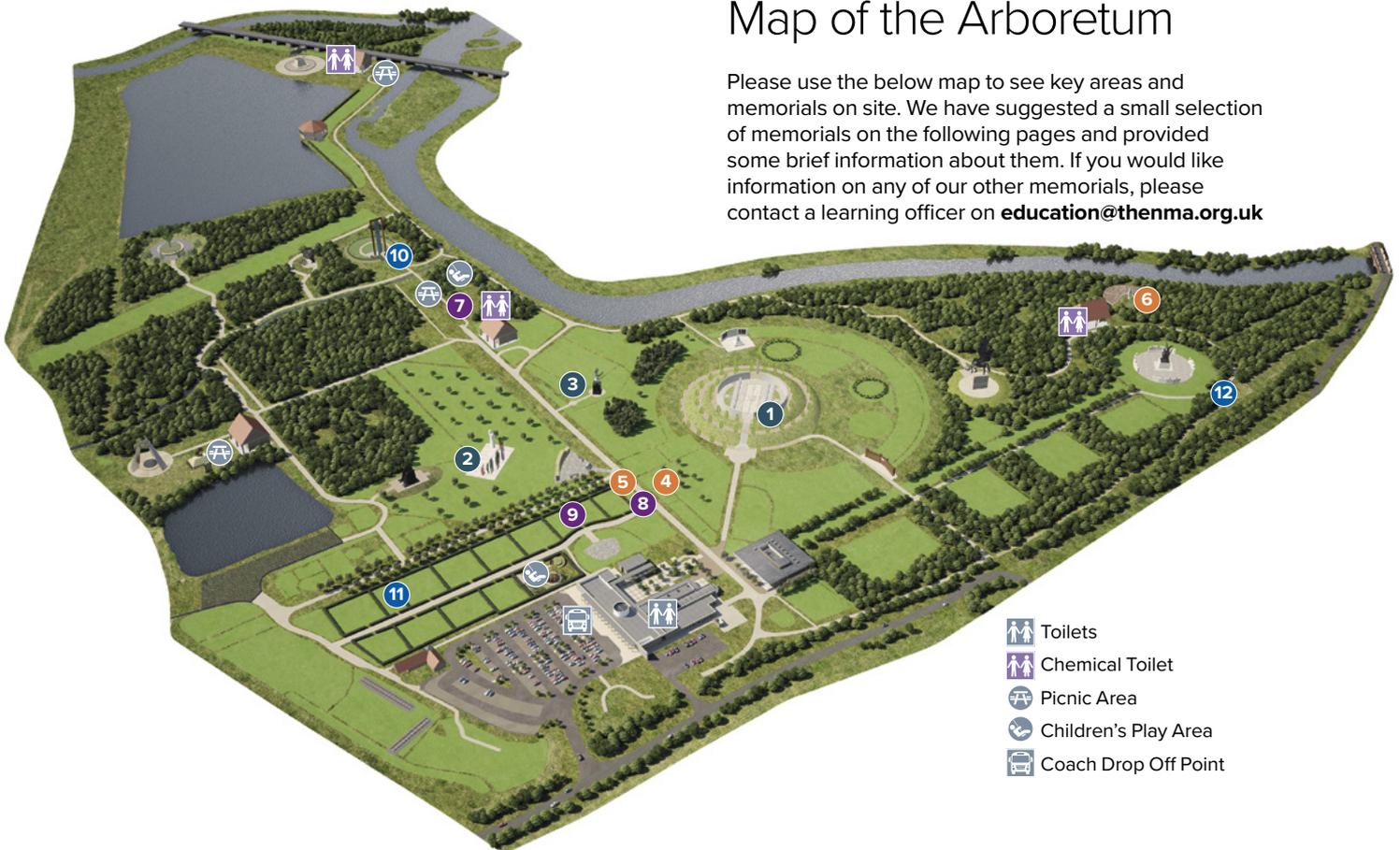
Whether you are coming to the Arboretum on a self-led visit or accessing one of our facilitated sessions; our online lessons are a great way to introduce the trip or to continue learning once you have visited.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) have several teaching Remembrance resources and the Arboretum have lessons to focus on specific topics such as Women at Work in the First World War, Medicine in the First World War and Second World War Rationing.

All resources for the RBL and Arboretum are separated into Key Stages to help with planning and to ensure children can fully access the material.

[Click to access the Arboretum's learning resources](#)

[Click to access the Legion's learning resources](#)



Map of the Arboretum

Please use the below map to see key areas and memorials on site. We have suggested a small selection of memorials on the following pages and provided some brief information about them. If you would like information on any of our other memorials, please contact a learning officer on education@thenma.org.uk

Armed Forces Memorials

- 1 Armed Forces Memorial
- 2 Naval Services Memorial
- 3 Royal Air Force Association Garden

First World War Memorials

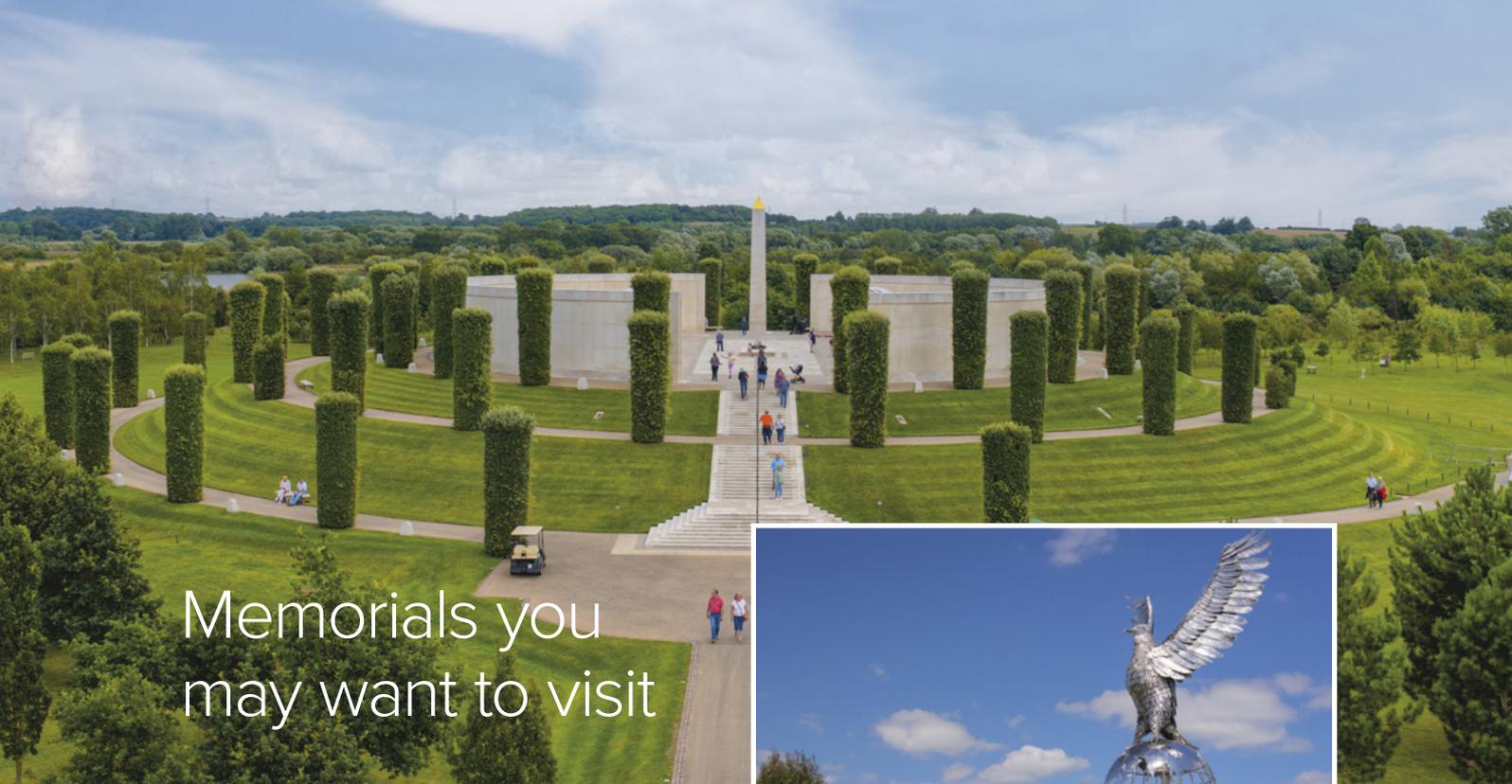
- 4 Gallipoli
- 5 Women's Land Army and Timber Corps
- 6 Shot at Dawn

Second World War Memorials

- 7 National Memorial to the Evacuation
- 8 Bevin Boys
- 9 Post Office Garden

Emergency Services Memorials

- 10 UK Police Memorial
- 11 Fire and Rescue Service
- 12 Ambulance Service Garden



Memorials you may want to visit

Armed Forces Memorial

This Memorial is here to remember all those in the Armed Forces who have lost their lives since the end of the Second World War.

Key points

- All names on the wall have no rank or gender as we are all equal in death.
- The gaps in each wall allow for sunlight to shine through on the 11 November at 11am onto the central wreath.
- The Stretcher Bearer sculpture shows four servicemen carrying a fallen comrade. The mother and father are depicted to the right and the widow and child to the left.
- The Gates sculpture shows a man being prepared for burial by a female medic and a Gurkha. A stonemason prepares to write his name on the wall whilst a fourth man points to where his soul may go.



Royal Air Force Association Garden

This memorial is here to remember the Royal Air Force Association who provide care to those in the RAF and their families.

Key points

- The path leading up to the memorial symbolises a flight path.
- Winston the Eagle is made up of 1000 steel forged feather and sits on top of a globe.
- The RAF roundel is split into quarters around the Eagle.

Naval Services Memorial

This Memorial is here to remember the work of all Naval Services past, present and future.

Key points

- The blue and green glass sails represent the colours of the oceans of the world.
- The yellow sail represents the rising of the sun and the red, the going down of the sun.
- White streaks on the sails represent waves whilst the red symbolises blood spilt.
- The shadow cast from the glass panels project the outline of a battleship onto the surrounding paving.





Gallipoli

This memorial remembers the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. Allied forces wanted to take control over the coastal region of the then Ottoman Empire to weaken the Central Powers and secure a sea route to Russia. Ultimately, this failed and there was a huge loss of life on each side.

Key points

- The memorial is surrounded by nine dead oak tree sculptures, representing the nine countries involved: Britain, Austria/Hungary, New Zealand, Australia, Newfoundland, India, Germany, Turkey and France.
- The oak tree sculptures are dead to symbolise the loss of life and are chained together to reflect that each country shared the same experience.
- The trees stand in front of living bushes to show how many men served and died to allow others to live freely.

Women’s Land Army and Timber Corps

This memorial remembers the Women’s Land Army and Timber Corps. The Land Army was formed during the First World War and the Timber Corps during the Second World War.

Key points

- The Land Girl is holding a pitchfork and sheath of corn to reflect the jobs she would have carried out.
- The Lumber Jill is holding an axe, pinecone, and oak leaf to reflect her role.
- A rat is caught in a trap at the base of the memorial as rats would have tried to eat much of the food harvested and Land Girls would have had to capture and kill them.



Shot at Dawn

This memorial remembers the men who were executed at dawn during the First World War for reasons such as Cowardice and Desertion.

Key points

- This memorial is at the furthest east point of site where the sun rises.
- The posts are laid out in a semi-circle with shorter posts at the front and taller posts at the back. This is to represent a Greek Amphitheatre and symbolise tragedy.
- The six trees at the front of the memorial represent the firing squad.





National Memorial to the Evacuation

This memorial, entitled 'Every Which Way', remembers all those who supported the mass evacuation of children and other vulnerable people during the Second World War.

Key points

- Some children have their clothes on back to front and others hands seem to be placed backwards. This is to symbolise the displacement and confusion they must have felt.
- Every child has a gas mask and label.
- Each label has a name such as Constance and Will.



Post Office Garden

This memorial is here to remember the work of the Postal Service during war time. Many postal workers went to the front to fight, and post was an essential way of communicating. In the Second World War, it took just 48 hours to get a letter from Britain to the front.

Key points

- The path is shaped to symbolise the Royal Mail logo.
- The green post box in the centre was blown out of a wall during the Blitz. Post was so important that it was back up and running two days later.

Bevin Boys

During World War Two there was a shortage of coal. The Labour Minister at the time, Ernest Bevin, decided that one in every 10 men conscripted had to work down the mines. These men became known as the Bevin Boys and this memorial is here to remember them.

Key points

- Three trees feature at this memorial; one from England, Wales and Scotland where miners would have worked.
- Those that were sent to the front had a lot of recognition and won medals for valour and bravery. However, the Bevin Boys were awarded nothing, and their contribution wasn't formally recognised until 2008 when they were awarded commemorative badges, the design of which can be seen on this memorial.
- On the smaller of the two rocks are two mice hidden in the carvings. You will also see tools Bevin Boys may have used carved into the rock.





UK Police Memorial

This memorial was officially opened by HRH King Charles in August 2021 and remembers and recognises the service and sacrifice of Police Officers across the United Kingdom.

Key points

- The leaf cut outs represent fallen Police Officers.
- The sculpture resembles the door that Police Officers enter through every day, going from a place of safety to facing potential dangers.



Fire and Rescue Service

This memorial remembers the work of fire and rescue teams past, present and future.

Key points

- The memorial is red to resemble the colour traditionally associated with Firefighters.
- The eight-point star is the badge which all Fire and Rescue Services around the country base their badge on. Each point represents qualities of those in the Fire and Rescue Service: observation, explicitness, dexterity, loyalty, gallantry, sympathy, tact, perseverance.

Ambulance Service Garden

This garden is here to remember all ambulance personnel who have died and especially to those who have been killed on duty.

Key points

- The path is in the shape of an A both for 'Ambulance' and for 'Asclepius' Greek god of healing and medicine.
- Green granite has been used to represent the green of the Ambulance Service.
- Three Rowan trees stand to the left of the memorial. Wood from the Rowan tree was used to make stretcher handles during the Second World War.





To support your children with their learning on site we have developed the following activities.

Picture Bingo	KS1
Memorial Bingo	KS2
Exploring Memorials	KS2 – KS3
Design a Memorial	KS2 – KS3
Exploring Memorials	KS4

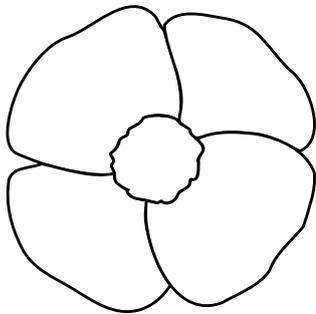


KS1 Picture Bingo

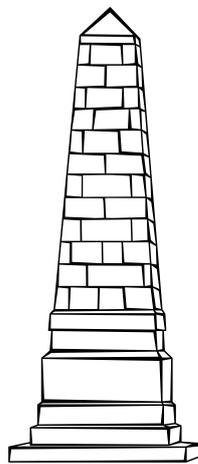
Can you spot these symbols and memorials in the Arboretum?

Put a tick in each box when you see them.

Symbols



Poppy



Obelisk



Wreath



Tree



Tea light

Memorials

All these memorials can be seen as you are walking down Millennium Avenue



Naval Service Memorial



Winston the eagle on Royal Air Forces Association Garden



The National Memorial to the Evacuation



The Women's Land Army and Timber Corps Memorial



UK Police Memorial



Poppy Memorial



KS2 Memorial Bingo

Wander down Millennium Avenue and use the clues to spot certain memorials.

To extend this task, pick four that you find interesting and fill in the Exploring Memorials worksheet.

Teachers/group leaders please find the answers to these on page 16

Here there are engravings of the equipment and clothes that these men wore. They worked underground.	This memorial shows a face along the edge and is named after an animal.	Some of the individual bricks in this memorial were brought back from particular places in Scotland.	The open gates on this memorial symbolise freedom.
The religious symbol prominently displayed on this memorial shows you that it commemorates Jewish people.	A poppy bearing each name is planted in the beds on the month they are remembered.	This memorial shows one way that women helped the war effort.	This leaning memorial has serpents which can make us well again.
This memorial shows a plant and a musical instrument to help identify the country of this memorial.	An eagle and the colours red, white and blue are used in this memorial to show its link to the RAF.	A heart on this memorial is a symbol of the caring aims of the organisation represented.	The top of this memorial shows a crown to represent the head of the British Armed Forces.
The two large, rough stones on the path approaching this memorial were taken from the place where the conflict took place.	Statues on this memorial have their heads bowed as a sign of respect for their comrades who died.	This pyramid shaped memorial is positioned to align with the coast of Libya where the wreck of HMS Neptune lies.	On top of this memorial is an object that tells you about the work these people did.

What's the most common type of symbol that you have seen today?

What's the most unusual symbol you've seen today?

What's the most effective symbol you've seen? Why?

Which symbols would you choose to be remembered by?

Draw or write them here.



Exploring Memorials

Explore our site to study and compare up to four memorials.

Ask our helpful volunteers and staff for information if you're struggling!

Name of memorial				
What is this memorial commemorating? Is it a specific event or group of people?				
What clues can you find about the story or message behind this memorial and what do they tell you?				
Who might this memorial be particularly important to?				
How is this memorial different to others that you've seen around the Arboretum?				
What impression does this memorial make on you? Does it make you think or feel a certain way?				



Design a Memorial

Think about the memorials you have seen today.

Have any stood out to you?

What symbolism have you noticed?

Think about something or someone you may want to Remember and design a memorial in the box below.

Consider the following

1. Do you want to use colour?
2. Are there any pictures you would want to include?
3. Are there any symbols you want to include?
4. How will these be included in the memorial?



Exploring Memorials

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Name of memorial				
What is this memorial commemorating? Is it a specific event or group of people?				
What clues can you find about the story or message behind this memorial and what do they tell you?				
Who might this memorial be particularly important to?				
How is this memorial different to others that you've seen around the Arboretum?				
What impression does this memorial make on you? Does it make you think or feel a certain way?				

Have any memorials in particular stood out to you, why?

Has looking around the National Memorial Arboretum changed how you feel about Remembrance? If so, how and why?



KS2 Memorial Bingo Answers

<p>Here there are engravings of the equipment and clothes that these men wore. They worked underground.</p> <p>Bevin Boys</p>	<p>This memorial shows a face along the edge and is named after an animal.</p> <p>Guinea Pig Club</p>	<p>Some of the individual bricks in this memorial were brought back from particular places in Scotland.</p> <p>Lock Class Frigates</p>	<p>The open gates on this memorial symbolise freedom.</p> <p>Stalag Gates</p>
<p>The religious symbol prominently displayed on this memorial shows you that it commemorates Jewish people.</p> <p>Ajex</p>	<p>A poppy bearing each name is planted in the beds on the month they are remembered.</p> <p>The Poppy Memorial</p>	<p>This memorial shows one way that women helped the war effort.</p> <p>The Women's Land Army and Timber Corps</p>	<p>This leaning memorial has serpents which can make us well again.</p> <p>RAF Medical Services</p>
<p>This memorial shows a plant and a musical instrument to help identify the country of this memorial.</p> <p>RUC GC</p>	<p>An eagle and the colours red, white and blue are used in this memorial to show its link to the RAF.</p> <p>RAF Association</p>	<p>A heart on this memorial is a symbol of the caring aims of the organisation represented.</p> <p>RAF Benevolent Fund</p>	<p>The top of this memorial shows a crown to represent the head of the British Armed Forces.</p> <p>National Service</p>
<p>The two large, rough stones on the path approaching this memorial were taken from the place where the conflict took place.</p> <p>Falklands</p>	<p>Statues on this memorial have their heads bowed as a sign of respect for their comrades who died.</p> <p>Royal & Sun Alliance</p>	<p>This pyramid shaped memorial is positioned to align with the coast of Libya where the wreck of HMS Neptune lies.</p> <p>HMS Neptune</p>	<p>On top of this memorial is an object that tells you about the work these people did.</p> <p>Minesweepers</p>

Aim To encourage pupils to look at the use of symbols in the design of a variety of memorials.

Location Millennium Avenue. All of the memorials relating to this activity can be found either on or just off this road. Maps and guide books are available from the Remembrance Centre. These will help to explain the symbolism and the exact location.

Instructions Pupils find a feature on one of the memorials in this area that matches the descriptions on their grid. The grid could be split in half so that the game can be played as a competition between groups of pupils.

Notes Many of the memorials include specially designed features to help tell the story of the event or people they are commemorating and to make visitors think more deeply about its message.



To encourage children to reflect and discuss, try the below prompts.

KS1

- How can we Remember?
- Who might we want to Remember?

KS2

- How can we Remember?
- Who might we want to Remember?
- Is the design of the memorials important? Why?

KS3/4

- How do we Remember?
- Who might we want to Remember?
- Why is it important that we Remember?
- What does Remembrance mean to you?
- Do you think these memorials can be used as sources for learning? Why/Why not?





How to find us

By car: From the A38 at Alrewas there are brown signs to the National Memorial Arboretum. Follow the A513 towards Tamworth for about half a mile. Take the first exit at the roundabout and follow the road to the National Memorial Arboretum car park. Pay and display charges apply for cars. Free pre-booked coach parking is available. For Sat Nav/GPS devices please enter DE13 7AR.

By Train: We are a short car journey away from Lichfield City and Lichfield Trent Valley railway stations (5 - 6 miles), Burton upon Trent (8 miles) and Tamworth (8 miles). Taxi services operate.

