ECHOES FROM THE WALL
A Teachers’ Guide to visiting The Wall That Heals, a traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica and mobile Education Center
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) produced this guide to enrich your visit to The Wall That Heals. All activities included in this guide may be modified and adapted for students in grades K-12.

The key below indicates different skills addressed in each of the activities in this guide:

- 🎨 Reflection
- 🎨 Hands-on
- 🗣 Speaking
- ☝️ Writing
- 📚 Reading

Also included are a number of activities which you can pursue in your classroom using VVMF’s comprehensive *Hometown Heroes* curriculum guide. *Hometown Heroes* includes a series of projects which engage students in the research and preservation of history relating to Vietnam veterans, the Vietnam War, and the legacy of the Vietnam era.
PREPARING FOR A VISIT

Before your visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, you and your students may wish to explore the following resources:

Read
- The Wall by Eve Bunting
- Vietnam: A History by Stanley Karnow
- The Vietnam War: A Concise International History by Mark A. Lawrence
- Matterhorn by Karl Marlantes
- The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
- To Heal a Nation by Jan Scruggs
- Letters on the Wall by Michael Soffarelli
- Primary source documents from the Vietnam era, available in the Echoes From the Wall Teachers’ Guide and the Hometown Heroes curriculum guide on www.vvmf.org

Watch
- To Heal a Nation, the story of Jan Scruggs and his efforts to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Maya Lin: A Strong, Clear Vision, a documentary about the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Gold Star Children, a documentary about American children who have lost loved ones to war
- The Sixties, a CNN documentary series on the events of the decade

Visit
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund at www.vvmf.org/education
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial at www.nps.gov/vive

Download
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Wall app - Search “VVMF Wall”
- Apple App Store - www.vvmf.org/app-apple
- Android - www.vvmf.org/app-android

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MEMORIAL ETIQUETTE

We hope your visit to The Wall That Heals is educational and thought-provoking.

Please remember that many visitors to the Memorial may have lost friends or family who served in the war; discuss with your students appropriate behavior to display while visiting the Memorial:

• Speak in a quiet voice
• Walk at all times
• Do not eat at the Memorial
• Do not litter; put trash and recycling in appropriate containers
• The Memorial is designed so that it can be touched, but please refrain from sitting or climbing on The Wall
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was created to honor those who served with the US Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Because there was much dissent about involvement in Vietnam, some veterans who returned home felt scorned, and not welcomed back to the country they had served. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial serves a place of healing, and place to remember and honor the nearly three million who served in the Vietnam War. Today, the memorial receives more than 4.5 million visitors annually.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) was formed in 1979 to establish a national memorial for those who served with the US Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Jan Scruggs, an infantry corporal in the war, conceived the idea to build this memorial.

In 1981, VVMF held a contest to select a design for the memorial. The winning entry was submitted by Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year old Chinese-American student at Yale University. She chose polished black granite for the walls, reflecting the images of the surrounding nature, monuments, and visitors. The walls point to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, linking the Vietnam War to earlier divisive times in American history.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was officially dedicated on November 13, 1982. The names on The Wall are inscribed in chronological order by date of casualty. The listing of names begins at the center of The Wall (where the two walls meet) on the center right hand panel (Panel 1 East). Here, the year 1959 is inscribed to indicate the year of the first American casualties in Vietnam. The names continue eastward to the far right end of the Memorial (Panel 70 East). The list continues on the far left panel (Panel 70 West), and ends at the center of The Wall on Panel 1 West. Here, the year 1975 is inscribed, linking together the first and last casualties of the War.

Reading the Symbols
- A diamond (◆) means the person’s death was confirmed
- A cross (+) means the person remains missing in action
- A diamond on a cross (◆+) means the person was once missing but remains have been accounted for
- A circle on a cross (⊙) would mean a person who was once missing has returned home alive. This symbol has never been used.

*The Wall app available for free in the iTunes store and Google Play can help you locate individual names on The Wall.*
ON SITE ACTIVITY: STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Invite your students to share thoughts about the following, either through discussion, writing, and/or drawing:

- What are your first impressions of The Wall?
- Maya Lin described The Wall as "a rift in the earth, a long, polished, black stone wall, emerging from and receding onto the earth." What effect does her design have on you? Do you like it or dislike it?
- How does The Wall make you feel?
- Write a poem, a song, or create a drawing to express how you feel at The Wall
- Write a letter to leave at The Wall

In the classroom:
To extend this activity into the classroom, check out Lesson Plan D of the Hometown Heroes curriculum guide- Understanding Healing Through Memorials- www.vvmf.org/hometown-heroes

ON SITE ACTIVITY: FINDING A NAME

Work in teams or groups to locate names of people on The Wall from your city, county, or state:

- Students can identify service members from their city, county, or state whose names are on The Wall by visiting www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces
- The Wall app available in the iTunes store can help you locate specific individual names on The Wall
- Have students copy down the name, the casualty date, and the panel where the name can be found

In the classroom:
To extend this activity into the classroom, check out Lesson Plan A of the Hometown Heroes curriculum - Remembering Those Who Sacrificed During the Vietnam War - www.vvmf.org/hometown-heroes

DID YOU KNOW?

Maya Lin’s winning design drawing for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is ONE of 1,421 design-competition submissions documented in the Library of Congress as part of the Papers of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

DID YOU KNOW?

When you are trying to find a name, you can use a quicker method to find the row location.

At the beginning or end of the rows, you can find a small circle and between each circle are 10 rows. So if you are looking for row 43, you can find the 4th circle and then count three rows below that.
Every day, people leave remembrances at The Wall. Items left behind include teddy bears, baseball gloves, photo albums, wedding rings, letters, and even a motorcycle. Each night, the National Park Service collects and catalogues the items that have been left at The Wall. The items comprise the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, which numbers over 400,000 objects.

Use the following questions to engage your students in a discussion on the remembrances left at The Wall:

- Why do you think people leave remembrances?
- What sorts of items do you think former servicemen might leave?
- What sorts of items do you think family members might leave?
- What would you leave?

As of Memorial Day 2016, 58,314 names are inscribed on The Wall. If deemed appropriate, additional names will be added in the future.

- What fraction of the total number of names on The Wall does your class represent?
- How much space on the National Mall would be filled if there was a person for every name on The Wall? More than 150,000 men and women were wounded during their service in Vietnam. How much space on the National Mall would those veterans fill?

In the classroom:
To extend this activity into the classroom, check out Lesson Plan B of the Hometown Heroes curriculum - Preserving Veterans’ Personal Stories

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More than 400,000 items have been left at The Wall. These items are collected by the National Park Service and stored as part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection. A selection of these items will be part of the future Education Center at The Wall.

Since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982, more than 300 names have been added to The Wall.
Join the Hometown Heroes Teachers Network!

By signing up, you can: connect with other teachers who teach on Vietnam; learn more about VVMF curriculum, programs, and resources; and serve as a local teacher ambassador for VVMF.

To join, visit www.vvmf.org/vvmf-education.

Based in Washington, D.C., VVMF (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund) is the nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980 to build a national memorial dedicated to all who served with the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War. Incorporated on April 27, 1979 by a group of veterans led by Jan C. Scruggs, the organization sought a tangible symbol of recognition from the American people for those who served in the war.

The result was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (commonly referred to as The Wall), which has become one of the most visited memorials in Washington, D.C. with an estimated 4.5 million annual visitors.

Since the dedication of The Wall, VWMF has pursued a mission of preserving the legacy of The Wall, promoting healing, and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War. Our latest initiative is the campaign to build the Education Center at The Wall. The Education Center will show the pictures and tell the stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam, provide a rich educational experience on the Vietnam War, show some of the more than 400,000 items left at The Wall, and celebrate the values exhibited by America’s service members in all wars.

LINKS TO VVMF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook
  https://www.facebook.com/VietnamVeteransMemorialFund
- Instagram - @vnveteransmemorial
  http://instagram.com/vnveteransmemorial
- Twitter - @VVMF
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- Pinterest
  http://www.pinterest.com/vvmf/
- YouTube
  http://www.youtube.com/VVMFEducationCenter
- HistoryPin
  http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/56433
- VVMF’s “Vietnam Voices” Podcast
  http://www.vvmf.org/podcasts