Subject Area & Grade: Grade 1 Social Studies
Heritage and Identity

Curriculum Link: Describe some of the ways in which people in Canada celebrate and commemorate significant events and people.

Learning Goal: Students examine how monuments, ceremonies, and stories help Canadians remember individuals who made important contributions, including Indigenous soldiers who served during wartime.

Lesson Activity #1:
Display the images of the two monuments and tell the class that these structures are called monuments.

Guided questions for a class discussion:

1. *"What do you think the word monument means?"*
2. *"Who or what is being remembered?"*
3. *"Why do you think this monument was built?"*

- ***Terry Fox Monument:*** located in Thunder Bay, it honours Terry Fox for his courage and determination. Terry Fox ran across Canada to raise money for cancer research

https://lakesuperiorcircletour.info/location/terry-fox-national-historic-monument/

- ***National War Memorial:*** located in Ottawa, it was built to remember and honour Canadians who served our country during wars. It reminds us to be thankful for the people who helped protect Canada.

https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canada/national-war-memorial-0

A **monument i**s a special statue or structure that helps us remember important people, events, or stories. We see monuments so we can learn about what happened, what people did, and say thank you for their contributions.

Possible Answers

Terry Fox Monument:

- *"We remember Terry Fox because he was brave and wanted to help people with cancer."*
- *"It reminds us that one person can make a difference.*

National War Memorial:

- *"They help us remember soldiers."*
- *"They were created to say thank you to people who helped Canada."*
- *"They remember people who were brave."*

Now, show the **National Indigenous Veterans Monument** https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canada/national-aboriginal-veterans-monument
and ask students:

- *"Why was this monument created?"*
- *"Who are we remembering and saying thank you to?"*

National Indigenous Veterans Monument: located in Ottawa, it was created to commemorate the contributions and sacrifices of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in wars (World Wars, Korean War) and peacekeeping operations.

Inquiry question:

- *"Why do communities create monuments to remember important people and events?"*

Possible answers:

- *"They make monuments so we don't forget important people."*
- *"They help us remember people who did something brave or helpful."*
- *"They show respect for people who helped others."*
- *"They help us learn about what happened in the past."*
- *"They remind us of heroes."*
- *"They help us say thank you to people who made a difference."*
- *"They tell stories about people and events."*
- *"They help future generations learn about important people."*
- *"They show that a person or event was important."*
- *"They help people remember and celebrate someone's life."*

Lesson Activity #2: A simple comparison question to ask students when comparing the National War Memorial and the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument:

"How are these two monuments alike, and how are they different?"

Same:

- *"They both remember people who helped Canada."*
- *"They both show respect."*
- *"They both teach us about the past."*

Different:

- *"One has people, and the other has animals."*
- *"One focuses on Indigenous veterans."*
- *"One has an arch."*

As a follow-up activity, students can complete the worksheet to reflect on what they learned about monuments and the people they honour.