

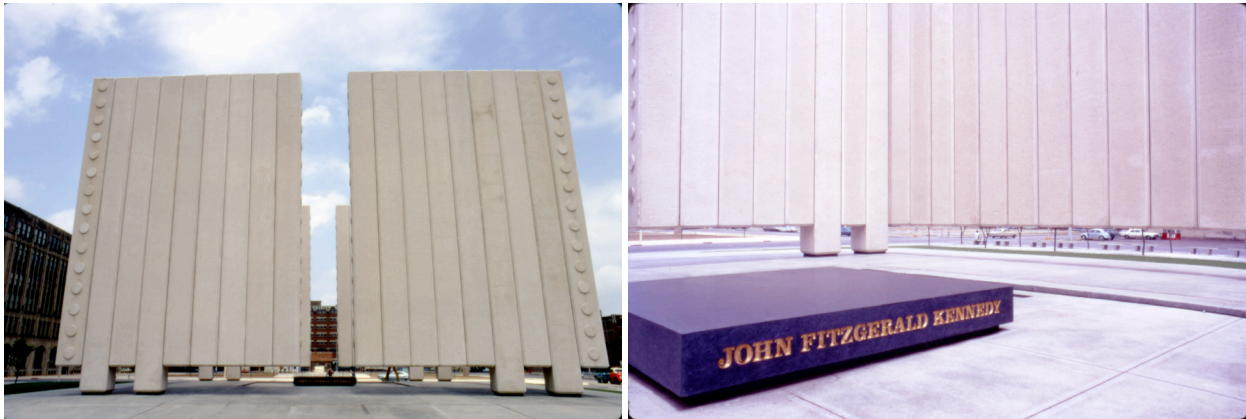


THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM
AT DEALEY PLAZA

SUMMER FUN

Monuments

Monuments are public structures that commemorate a person or event from history. They allow us to keep memories alive and close, not just to a single person but to many.



The John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza

Located just a few blocks from the Sixth Floor Museum is the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza. This memorial was dedicated on June 24, 1970 and celebrates its 50th anniversary on June 24, 2020. The memorial was designed by American architect Phillip Johnson and is a square shape, meant to resemble an open tomb. It spans 30 feet high and has openings on the North and South sides allowing visitors to enter inside. The structure also includes eight columns that reach the ground with lights fixtures at the bottom, allowing the memorial to look as if it is floating on light when viewed at night. Johnson calls this effect a “magnetic force” that can be connected to the late President’s charisma. Upon entering the memorial, the name John Fitzgerald Kennedy is carved and painted gold, and is the only script in the otherwise empty space. This plain and simple design allows for a space of reflection. With the information you have, how do you imagine it would feel to step inside the memorial?

How we memorialize

The United States has many memorials dedicated to important people throughout the country. Look at these images of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and the Kennedy Memorial. Make a list of the features you can see, such as color, how big the monument looks, its location, and other features you can physically see. What do they have in common? How are they different? How do the monuments’ features help to memorialize the person they represent?





Creating your monument

Imagine you are an architect given the task to design a monument. Think about a historical event, current issue, or person you would create the monument for. Create a design for your monument, detailing what it will look like, how it will honor the person, event, or issue you have chosen, and what symbols you will use. Be sure to pay attention to details like its exact measurements, the material it would be made from, where it would be located, what type of environment it will be placed in, and note those on your design. Your design can be similar to the outside structures like in the photos above or can be another kind of structure such as a painting.

Once you have put your thoughts on paper, build your monument from materials around your house. Use the design you created and materials gathered to bring your monument to life. How does looking at your monument on paper compare to looking at your actual creation? Did you make any changes from your original design? What do you hope viewers will take away from your memorial?

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