

Garden Guided Exploration

Explore every element of the Memorial Garden and discover the meaning behind what you see.

Walk through the garden quietly for a few minutes before starting. Every element was chosen on purpose. As you explore, ask yourself: why did the designers make this choice?

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLASS _____

30-45 MINUTES

GRADES 4-12

— Section 1 — The Steel Beam —

At the center of the garden

The large steel beam came from a famous building. What building was it part of, and what city is that building in?

ANSWER:

Look closely at the beam

The beam is bent. How tall does it stand, and why do you think it was not straightened before being placed here?

ANSWER:

Look at the beam's weight and size

How much does the steel beam weigh? Can you find any other details about its size on the nearby plaques?

ANSWER:

— Section 2 — The Pentagon Base —

Look at the shape of the base

Count the sides of the pedestal the beam rests on. What shape is it? What important building has the same shape?

ANSWER:

Read the stainless steel plaques

How many names are engraved on the plaques surrounding the base? Who are these people?

ANSWER:

Beneath the base

Something is sealed beneath the foundation that you cannot see. What is it and what does it contain?

ANSWER:

— Section 3 — The Twin Towers —

Along the walking path

Find the two stone structures near the path. What do they represent? Do you notice anything about how they were designed?

ANSWER:

Near the Twin Tower replicas

Count the stone column water features. How many are there, and what do they represent?

ANSWER:

— Section 4 — The Shanksville Field —

The open green space

The greenery surrounding the memorial represents a specific place. Where is that place and what happened there on September 11, 2001?

ANSWER:

Standing at the beam, look outward

The steel beam faces a specific direction. Why do you think the designers positioned it this way?

ANSWER:

— Section 5 — The Space Itself —

The curved granite benches

What material are the curved benches made from? Why do you think the designers included a place to sit inside a memorial?

ANSWER:

Where the memorial is located

The memorial is built on the grounds of a specific Beverly Hills city department. Which one, and why was that location chosen?

ANSWER:

The flagpole

What flag is flying, and what do you think its presence here means?

ANSWER:

— Section 6 — The People Who Built It —

The donor plaques

How was this memorial paid for? Can you find the name of the first organization to financially support the project?

ANSWER:

The dedication date

When was this memorial officially dedicated? Why is that date significant?

ANSWER:

— Reflection — Think & Discuss —

Every element of this garden was chosen on purpose. Which element surprised you the most, and why?

The beam is "bent, but not broken." What does that phrase mean to you? Can you think of other examples from history or your own life?

This memorial was built entirely by volunteers and private donors. Why do you think they did it? What does it mean for a community to take responsibility for remembrance?

If you were going to add one more element to this memorial garden, what would it be and why?

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