

# THE CHINATI FOUNDATION

## MAKING MONUMENTS: HISTORY, MEMORY, AND SCULPTURE



**Grade Levels:** Adaptable to K-12

### Possible Materials

cardboard, paper, aluminum foil, glue, tape, cans, natural materials, fabric, yarn, string, markers, crayons, pencils- anything you can think of will work!

### Vocabulary and Definitions

**Monument:** a statue, building, or artwork that honors and remembers a person, an animal, or an important event. A monument is often large, but can be any size.

**Material:** the products used to make an artwork; for example paint, charcoal, metal, marble, paper, cardboard, etc.

### Lesson Objectives

- To consider the purpose of monuments and to give an empowering voice to all students' lived experiences, memories, and interests.
- To learn how a monument might convey aspects of a person or an animal's life. To learn that a monument can honor any number of important events, emotions, or experiences.
- To bridge an abstract idea, such as a memory, with the creation of an artwork.
- To play with a variety of readily available materials and to learn the numerous ways household objects can be manipulated and made into art.

### Procedure and Prompts

1. After watching the video (<https://vimeo.com/401754941>), think about monuments you are familiar with or have seen in person. How will your monument be similar or different to these monuments? Gather your materials.
2. What does home mean to you? When you think of home, what comes to mind? What images pop into your head? Is there a particular memory that comes to mind when you think of home?
3. Grab a pencil or a marker and some paper. Draw some sketches of your potential monument. What might it look like?
4. Looking at your materials, discuss with yourself or a friend how you might use each material. How can you change the materials? How could each material be used to make your monument? How can you take what you drew and make it 3D? Where will you begin?
5. Start constructing. As you are making your monument, think about what kind of base you will want to build to place your sculpture on. What will the base be constructed from? What will your base look like?
6. Write a description of your monument. Does it have a title? What does your monument depict, or show? Where do you think it should be placed and why should it be placed in that location?

### Reflection

Reflect on making your monument.

1. What did you find challenging? How did your plans change as you went along?
2. What are you most proud of?
3. If you made another monument, what would you do the same? What would you do differently?



*Monument to Snoopy. Wire, paint, and an aluminum can.*

## **Brainstorm and Sketch!**

Use the space below to brainstorm and sketch your monument.