

Student Activities Sheets

HONOUR ROLL INVESTIGATION

Activity

Setting the scene

Part of the National Police Memorial includes a bronze commemorative wall measuring twenty seven metres long and over two metres in height. It is punctured by 1,200 plaques upon which the following information of the deceased police officers is engraved:

- officer's name and rank
- date of death (day, month and year)
- place of death

Each plaque is randomly located across the wall to reflect the random and unplanned nature of loss. Spaces on the commemorative wall left vacant to remind visitors of the fact that tragedy in the future is inevitable.

What to do

- visit the National Police Memorial website www.npm.org.au and find the honour roll
- select a police officer listed between 1803 -1902
- research this officer's line of work and the reasons behind his/her death
- if possible, visit the grave site of the police officer

Your research should include reference to the following:

- the officer's name and rank
- the officer's date of death and place of death
- the circumstances behind the officer's death
- locate where the officer has been buried

Provide your personal opinion on the following:

- what was life like for a police officer during that period of time?
- compare policing in colonial Australia and policing in today's society based on the resources available to the community
- based on the attitudes of colonial Australia, how would you commemorate the death of this officer?

If possible, locate where the officer has been buried and:

- generate an aerial image of the grave site using atlas maps or Google Earth
- visit the grave site and take a photo
- carefully create a rubbing of the tomb stone or plaque

Be creative

Research, and record in detail, the type of uniform worn by the police officer you researched.

Compare that uniform to the uniform worn by police officers, in the same state or territory, today and list the changes.

POETIC POLICING

Activity

Setting the scene

An underlying theme of the National Police Memorial is the notion of ordinary men and women doing the extraordinary on behalf of the Australian people and making the ultimate sacrifice. This is shown by a collection of quotes from an officer, colleague or loved one to communicate that those who have died lived lives not dissimilar to the visitor reading the quote.

A mix of both historical and contemporary quotes are incorporated to reflect the long and enduring history of sacrifice in the police services of the nation. The objective of the quotes is to provoke a rich variety of emotion that acts as a testament to the cost to the community of policing.

What to do

- Read the following quotes located at the National Police Memorial.
- Contemplate and reflect on the message behind each quote.
- Identify feelings and attitudes expressed by these messages.
- Assess your own personal feelings when reading these quotes.
- Write a poem dedicated to the police officers who have lost their lives serving the Australian community, or
- Write a short story about an imaginary family member or close friend who is a serving police officer

Considering the shocking wounds he received and the terrible agony he was in, his action after being shot leaves no doubt in my mind that he was one of the bravest policemen to wear the Queen's uniform.

You epitomised the ideal character of a true policeman, integrity, honesty and courage.

Tragically, they will know of his bravery but he will not have the opportunity to see the positive impact of his work and his life.

He approached the gunman courageously despite the grave danger, with hands open, clearly showing that he was not armed – tragically he was fatally shot.

In vain they searched for the infamous Starlight in the vast and harsh outback in the height of summer. Their humanitarian endeavours ended by a ghastly fate.

An exploding landmine in an unmarked field.

Their children can never forget – nor should we.

The past six months have been the most difficult of my life. I remember how you smiled at me before you left for work that morning, and told me you loved me in a call later that day.

Dad, today marks the twenty-ninth year since you left this earth. Your granddaughter told me yesterday how much she wished you could have met.

Be creative

Display everyone's poems/short stories around the classroom. Each student selects three works and uses the following guidelines to assess their content.

- Is the content original? Explain your answer.
- Does the work present a stereotypical depiction of Australian policing? Explain your answer.
- How does the work engage the reader?
- What message does the work most strongly express?
- How does the work promote reflection?
- What type of audience would respond to this work?

FLYING THE FLAG

Activity

Setting the scene

Each Australian police jurisdiction flies its agency's flag at the National Police Memorial. All flags were blessed in their home jurisdiction on National Police Remembrance Day and were later presented to the National Police Memorial catafalque (cat a falk) party by the respective Police Commissioners.

What to do

Each flag displays a unique design and has a colourful history behind its design and development. Choose a flag and research its history, development and design.

Answer the following questions. Include as much detail as possible in your research.

- When and why was the flag created?
- Describe why certain colours were chosen.
- Describe why certain images and logos were chosen.

A catafalque party was an integral part of the National Police Memorial dedication ceremony. Answer the following questions.

- What is a catafalque party?
- Why was a catafalque party created?
- When was the first catafalque party used in Australia?
- What are the roles of a catafalque party?
- What is the history of the catafalque party?

Be creative

The Northern Territory police flag was a new design that was first raised and flown at the National Police Memorial dedication ceremony.

- Design a police flag that reflects the history of your city or town.
- Explain why you incorporated certain colours and images, logos or designs.
- Reproduce your flag and raise it at your school flag pole.

