

Discussion Questions

Before Viewing:

Students will watch a segment about Cheyenne and Arapaho artist Harvey Pratt, who discusses his inspiration and process for creating a memorial design for the National Native American Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

As they watch the video have students consider the following:

1. What inspired the artist's design (how the artist came up with his idea for the design)?
2. What kinds of symbolism does Harvey Pratt include in his memorial artwork?

After Viewing:

1. Have you ever seen a memorial? How is this memorial similar to or different from memorials you have seen? What makes it special?
2. Describe what you saw. What struck you as important about this memorial?
3. How did you personally connect with this memorial? Have you created a memorial for someone?
4. Harvey Pratt is a Peace Chief and in charge of preserving customs and ceremonies. How are ceremonies important in Native American culture?
5. Pratt says all nations share certain customs and symbols. What inspired Pratt to create the circles in the memorial? Why are the circles important and where do you see them?
6. What are the components of the finished piece? What do the different components represent in Native American culture?

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7. Pratt says the memorial is a place for healing and peace. How is it a healing place? How do you imagine people interacting with the memorial?

8. How can the memorial be a unifying place for people?

9. What does the memorial mean to Native American people? What does it mean to non-Native American people?

10. How does the memorial reflect our Democracy? How does the memorial contribute to our Democracy?

11. Do you believe Pratt's Warrior's Circle of Honor expresses beauty and/or the ugly and painful side of life? Provide reason for your interpretation.

12. Do you believe his Warrior's Circle of Honor Memorial will make the world a better place? Please explain why or why not.

13. If you had to describe the Memorial to someone who could not see it, what words would you use? What does it look like?

14. If you could ask Harvey Pratt a question, what would you ask him?