Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines

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Questions and Activities

1. Maya Lin was an artist and an architect. What does an artist create? What does an architect create? How is an artist similar or different to an architect?

2. What is a memorial? Why are memorials important places for people who visit them? How do memorials teach us about history? What can you learn from Maya Lin’s Vietnam Veterans Memorial?

3. Maya Lin “…wants people to be a part of her art. Look. Touch. Read. Walk around. Sit by. Think about it.” What would you create if you were an artist and architect like Maya? What would your artwork be about and how could visitors explore it?

4. Wander through your neighborhood. Is there a memorial or artwork that honors an important event, group of people, or person? What can you discover when you visit this place?

5. When Maya’s design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was chosen, the judges were surprised to find out she was a young woman. Why did this surprise them? Visit laconservancy.org to uncover stories about other female architects including Julia Morgan, Norma Sklarek, and Zaha Hadid. Is there a building in your town or city designed by a female architect?