

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



Building a memorial to the veterans of the Vietnam War was the idea of Jan Scruggs. Scruggs was a former infantry corporal during the Vietnam War. A group of Vietnam veterans established the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. in 1979. The founders of this organization wanted a symbol to recognize the individuals who fought in this war. Not all Americans supported the Vietnam War. The founders wanted to make sure that the memorial chosen would not offend the opinion of any American. They knew they wanted the names of all the Americans who had died in the Vietnam War or who remained missing to be included in this memorial.

Maya Ying Lin designed the memorial wall. Her choice of polished black granite for the walls proved to be an excellent material for this memorial. There are 58, 229 names engraved on the walls. The names are arranged according to the date of their death. Each name with a confirmed death has a diamond shape after the name. Those that remain missing have a cross shape after the name. This memorial is a place where family members can go to remember their loved ones who died or were lost in the war. People leave items to memorialize these veterans. It is a place of healing for many Americans.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial consists of the wall of names, a statue of three men fighting in Vietnam, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Frederick Hart created the statue, which is located at the entrance of the memorial, along with a 60-foot flagpole. The Women's Memorial was established to honor the role of women in the Vietnam War. It was designed by Glenna Goodacre, and depicts three uniformed women and a wounded soldier.

The memorial is located in Washington, D.C., and is administered by the National Park Service.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

1. Who was the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Wall?
 - a. Glenna Goodacre
 - b. Frederick Hart
 - c. Jan Scruggs
 - d. Maya Ying Lin

2. The second paragraph of this passage mainly discusses _____.
 - a. The Wall of Names
 - b. The Women's Memorial
 - c. The organization of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
 - d. The healing of America

3. Who is given credit for the idea of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?
 - a. Frederick Hart
 - b. Maya Ying Lin
 - c. Jan Scruggs
 - d. Glenna Goodacre

4. Where is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial located?
 - a. New York City
 - b. Vietnam
 - c. California
 - d. Washington, D.C.

5. According to the passage, it was important to the organizers of this memorial that _____.
 - a. the names of the veterans who had died or were missing be included in the memorial
 - b. the memorial not offend Americans or their opinions about the Vietnam War.
 - c. it should be located in Texas
 - d. both a and b

6. Why do you think this memorial is important?

NAME _____ DATE _____

**THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
ANSWERS**

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. d
5. b
6. answers will vary