

**LESSON PLAN 3**  
**Memorial Day**  
**Shadows of War: Prelude to the First Memorial Day**

**Grade Level:** 4-6

**Purpose of Lesson:** To utilize the higher thinking skills, as described in Bloom's Taxonomy, through group discussions, including synthesis and evaluation.

**Student Objectives:**

- 1) The students will be able to identify why Emma and Sophie observed the first Memorial Day.
- 2) The students will be able to identify activities common to Memorial Day today.
- 3) The students will be able to utilize higher thinking skills to answer questions such as the following:
  - a) Are the Memorial Day activities of the 2000s different from the activities in the 1800s?
  - b) How are they different? Is that good or bad?
  - c) Would you recommend any changes? Why?

**Standards Alignment:**

- 8.1.6 History analysis and skills development
- 8.2.6 Pennsylvania history
- 5.1.6. K. Roles of symbols and holidays
- 1.6.5. E. Participation in group discussions

**Materials Needed:** Shadows of War: Prelude to the First Memorial Day by Janice Sweet McElhoe

18" x 24" drawing paper  
Crayons or colored pencils

**Procedures:**

- 1) Students will read Part 4, Shadows of War.
- 2) The class will function as a whole to identify, through discussion, why Emma and Sophie observed the first Memorial Day.
- 3) The class will break into small groups to create lists of common activities that are a part of Memorial Day celebrations today.
- 3) The class will come together as a whole group to compare activities that took place on the first Memorial Day with observances they have experienced.
- 4) The class will compare and contrast how Memorial Day is observed today and how it was observed in the 1800s; whether that is good or bad; and how they might suggest possible changes.

**Closure:** Students will fold an 18" x 24" sheet of drawing paper in half to create two separate areas. They will illustrate "Memorial Day – 1864" on one side and they will illustrate "Memorial Day Today" on the other side.

**Evaluation:** 1) The teacher will observe that the students were able to utilize higher thinking skills to identify why Emma and Sophie observed the first Memorial Day

2) The teacher will observe that the students were able to utilize higher thinking skills to identify activities common to Memorial Day today

3) The teacher will observe that the students were able to utilize higher thinking skills to compare and contrast the differences between the observation of earlier Memorial Days with celebrations of today through discussion and depiction in drawings.