







Activity

Write a visual analysis of the Burke and Wills monument, drawing on the images provided and supporting it with textual research. It should be written in the form of an essay, rather than in short answers or with sub-headings. Include the following information

Introduction

- What is the purpose of this monument?
- When was it built?
- What is it made of?
- What information is printed on it?
- Historical context. When did the events which it depicts occur and when was the monument established in its current location?

Visual Description

- Describe the statue as a whole
- It is made up of several parts i.e. the figures on top and the frieze around the edges. How does each part differ? Why did the sculptor choose these styles?
- Who are the people represented in the sculptures on top of the monument? What has made them significant figures in Australian history?
- What significant events are represented in the frieze? Discuss each and put them into historical context.
- What types of people are represented in the frieze in addition to Burke and Wills' exploration team? Discuss each cultural group and their role in the expedition.
- What types of art styles are used in the monument? Does it remind you of any other types of ancient art?
- What are the people in the images wearing?
- What is the overall effect of the monument

Function

- What is the purpose of this particular monument?
- Why was it commissioned?
- Why is it in this location?
- Which other ways are Burke and Wills remembered?

Significance

- Are monuments a successful way to remember events and figures in Australian history?
- How significant was the Burke and Wills expedition in Australian history?
- From whose perspective is the story in the monument being told? Are any parts missing, over-represented or under-represented?

VELS History Standard – Level 6

Historical Knowledge and Understanding

- ✓ At level 6, students analyse events which contribute to Australia's social, political and cultural development i.e. European colonization of the Australian landscape

Historical Reasoning and Interpretation

- ✓ At level 6, students identify, comprehend and evaluate a range of primary and secondary sources, including visual sources. They critically evaluate sources of evidence for context, information, reliability, completeness, objectivity and bias. They recognize that in history there are multiple perspectives and partial explanations. They use appropriate historical language and concepts in historical explanation.