**ACTIVITY I**

ABOUT TOMBS OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

A Tomb of the Unknown Soldier refers to a monument in dedication to the services of an unknown soldier and to the common memories of all soldiers killed in any war. Such tombs can be found in many nations and are usually high-profile [national monuments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_monument). In the WWI many soldiers died without being identified. In Britain the ideas lefts by David Railton chaplain was transmitted and previously approved by the Dean of Westminster, then from the prime Minister David Lloyd George, and later from King George V. The idea of a symbolic Tomb of the Unknown Soldier then spread to other countries.

In 1921, the [Tomb of the Unknowns (US)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_the_Unknowns), [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (Portugal)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomb_of_the_Unknown_Soldier_(Portugal)) and [Monument to Vittorio Emanuele—Unknown Soldier (Italy)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monument_to_Vittorio_Emanuele_II#Unknown_soldier) were all unveiled. Other nations have followed the practice and created their own tombs. In the United States and other countries, tombs have also been created representing the fallen of other wars in their history.

The Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers typically contain the remains of a dead soldier who is unidentified. These remains are considered impossible to be identified, and so serve as a symbol for all of a country's unknown dead wherever they fell in the war being remembered. The anonymity of the entombed soldier is the key symbolism of the monument; it could be the tomb of anyone who fell in service of the nation, and therefore serves as a monument symbolizing all of the sacrifices.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER OF WORLD WAR I

GREAT BRITAIN

In 1916 a chaplain called David Railton noticed a makeshift grave on which the cross was written *“An Unknown British Soldie*r” in a garden at the front in France. He wrote to the [Dean of Westminster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dean_of_Westminster) in 1920 proposing that an unidentified [British](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armed_Forces_of_the_United_Kingdom) soldier from the battlefields in France be buried with due ceremony in Westminster Abbey "amongst the kings" to represent the many hundreds of thousands of [Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) dead. The idea was strongly supported by the Dean and the then Prime Minister [David Lloyd George](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lloyd_George).

Thanks to Dean Ryle, the dean, the tomb with the remains of the Unknown Soldier was transported in Great Britain.

Four bodies of dead soldiers at the front were selected and transported to the town of St. Pol , where the Brigadier General L.J. Wyatt selected at random one of four bodies to become the Unknown Soldier of Great War I . According to some sources The bodies were six but there is no definite information

On the 8th of November a service was held to commemorate the sacrifice of the Unknown Soldier, officiated by chaplains from the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and the Non-Conformist Churches.

With a military special transport the coffin arrived at Victory Station in London and on the 11th November it arrived at Westminster Abbey. On the morning of 11 November 1920, the casket was placed onto a gun carriage of the Royal Horse Artillery and drawn by six horses through immense and silent crowds. As the cortege set off, a further Field Marshal's salute was fired in Hyde Park. The route followed was Hyde Park Corner, The Mall, and to Whitehall where the Cenotaph, a "symbolic empty tomb", was unveiled by King-Emperor George V.

There was a big funeral ceremony to commemorate the soldiers who died in World War I and on the 18th of November a temporary stone sealed the grave.

On the 17th of October 1921, the American General John J. Pershing presented the Medal of Honor to the Unknown Soldier of Great Britain.

On the 11th of November the temporary stone marking the Unknown British Soldier was replaced. A slab of Black Belgian marble became the permanent replacement. There is a glided inscription to commemorate the Unknown Solider. It is the first example of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the History. New stone and the Congressional Medal

On 11 November 1921 the present black marble stone was unveiled at a special service. The stone (size 7 feet by 4 feet 3 inches, depth 6 inches) was supplied and lettered by Mr. Tomes of Acton and the brass for the inscription supplied by Nash & Hull. Benjamin Colson carried out the brass work. The Padre's Flag was also formerly dedicated at this service. The grave was then capped with a black Belgian marble stone featuring this inscription, composed by Herbert Edward Ryle, Dean of Westminster, engraved with brass from melted down wartime ammunition:

Beneath this stone rests the body  
Of a British warrior  
Unknown by name or rank  
Brought from France to lie among  
The most illustrious of the land  
And buried here on Armistice Day  
11 Nov: 1920, in the presence of  
His Majesty King George V  
His Ministers of State  
The Chiefs of his forces  
And a vast concourse of the nation

Thus are commemorated the many  
Multitudes who during the Great  
War of 1914 – 1918 gave the most that  
Man can give life itself  
For God  
For King and country  
For loved ones home and empire  
For the sacred cause of justice and  
The freedom of the world

They buried him among the kings because he  
Had done good toward God and toward  
His house

Around the main inscription are four texts:

The Lord knoweth them that are his (top)  
Unknown and yet well known, dying and behold we live (side)  
Greater love hath no man than this (side)

In Christ shall all be made alive(base)

General Pershing, on behalf of the United States of America, conferred the Congressional Medal of Honor on the Unknown Warrior on 17 October 1921 and this now hangs in a frame on a pillar near the grave. In October 2013 the Congressional Medal of Honor Society presented the Society's official flag to the Unknown Warrior and this is framed below the medal.

When the Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon in the Abbey in 1923 as she left she laid her wedding bouquet on the grave as a mark of respect (she had lost a brother during the war). All royal brides married in the Abbey since then have sent back their bouquets to be laid on the grave.

A year later, on 17 October 1921, the unknown warrior was given the United States' highest award for valour, the Medal of Honor, from the hand of General John Pershing; it hangs on a pillar close to the tomb.