

Maya Lin

“I try to give people a different way of looking at their surroundings. That's art to me.”

Maya Lin is an American architect and sculptor. In her art she uses environmental themes and is passionate about the way we interact with our environment. She is best known for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Complete 3-Daisy, 4-Brownie, 5-Junior, 6-Cadette,
and 7-Senior/Ambassador steps to earn your patch.

All monthly patches are custom designed. When we get the final number of patches after the 15th of each month, we place an order. Patches take about four weeks to create and then we mail them to you. You will get a confirmation email once the patches are headed your way.

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Discover

1. From an early age Maya excelled at math which led her to a career in architecture. Can you think of other careers where math comes in handy? Research careers you could have in the future that have to do with math. Are there a lot of women in that field?
2. Maya Lin is best known for her work on The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial which came out of a class project from Yale University. Her design was chosen out of over 1,000 entries.

Lin was only 21 years old at the time. This is an amazing accomplishment at such a young age. What do you think you could accomplish at a young age that could help make a difference? You are never too young or too old to make a difference. Find other influential women that made a difference at a young age.

3. Maya came from very creative parents. Her mother was a poet and her dad was a ceramicist (person who works with ceramics.) Do you think that Maya was influenced to be a creative person because her parents are both creative? Look at your own family history. Do you want to grow up and follow in your parent's footsteps? Why or why not?
4. Maya is of Chinese descent. What do you know about Chinese culture? Maya's family moved from China to America in the 1940's before Maya was born, so she never gave much thought to her Chinese culture and instead fully embraced being an American. During the contest for the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial design, people found out she was Chinese-American and decided that could not be tolerated and that her design was suspect because she is an Asian woman. How do you think this made Maya feel? She had to stand up to Congress about her design and ultimately won. What would you do if you were put in this type of situation? Research more about how Maya fought for her design in Congress.

Connect

5. Maya has a deep love of all things nature. As a child she loved to hike and bird watch. In her architectural designs, she enjoys using natural elements and thinking how memorials can interact with the environment. Much of her later work focuses on the way people interact with the environment. Get out and interact with the environment! Go on a nature hike or visit local memorials in your town to observe how they interact with the environment around them.
6. Maya received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016. She says she was speechless and so honored. We have talked about other influential women who have earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom during our monthly patch program. Take a look back at who those women were and research other women that have received this high honor. What do they have in common? How are they different? How have they made an impact?
7. One of Maya's many passions is the environment. She draws her attention to global warming, endangered bodies of water, and animal extinction and endangerment. What can you do to bring awareness to one of these causes? How much do you know about the issues impacting our world? Take some time to learn about environmental issues. Design a poster with your troop and talk to someone about your issue then teach them what you have learned!
8. The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is the project that launched Maya's career but she has also designed many other

memorials such as the Civil Rights Memorial. Learn more about other projects Maya Lin has designed. Design your own memorial or sculpture to commemorate something that you are passionate about. This could be drawn on a piece of paper or get really creative and find elements to make your model 3D.

Take Action

9. There are a lot of ways that you can help the environment. Turning the water off when you brush your teeth, recycling, and turning off the lights when you leave a room. Find out more things you can do in your daily life to help our world! Small changes that each of us make will add up to big changes which will help make our environment healthier now and in the future.
10. Maya provided an important memorial to honor veterans and fallen soldiers from the Vietnam War. Honor a veteran that you know! Find out how you can help at your local VA or simply call up a veteran and thank them for their service.
11. Get out and about in your town. Appreciate the architecture and pay attention to the different buildings. Are they made with different material? What ways do they look different/similar? Are there any buildings, monuments, or parks you especially love in your town? Why? Think about the design elements of some of your favorite places!