



Lesson 10.4: How Much Do Civil War Statues Really Tell Us?

Statues We Know

What is the statue called?	Where is it located? Why is it there?	What does it make you think about?





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Civil War Memorials and Monuments: Image 1



Soldier at Rest, Claremont, NH
Source: Wikimedia User Kenneth C. Zirkel, 2021



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Civil War Memorials and Monuments: Image 2



African-American Civil War Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Source: Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America Project in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress



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Civil War Memorials and Monuments: Image 3



Ulysses S. Grant Statue, Vicksburg, Mississippi

Source: Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America Project in the Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress



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Civil War Memorials and Monuments: Image 4



Abraham Lincoln Statue, Kentucky (front and back)

Sources: Front and back view on Wikimedia Commons. Front view image is part of the National Archives and Records Administration RG 406, Digital Photographs Relating to America's Byways. Rear view image was created by the National Park Service.



Lesson 10.4: How Much Do Civil War Statues Really Tell Us?

Name _____

Notice and Wonder: Civil War Memorials and Monuments

Notice Answer the questions to make detailed observations.	Wonder Write a question prompted by this observation.
Who or what is shown in the monument or memorial?	
Where is the monument or memorial located? Describe the surrounding environment.	
What material was used to make the monument or memorial?	
How big or small is the monument or memorial?	
What details tell you this is a Civil War monument or memorial?	



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Notice and Wonder: Civil War Memorials and Monuments – Answer Key

Notice Answer the questions to make detailed observations.	Wonder Write a question prompted by this observation.
Who or what is shown in the monument or memorial? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A single male soldier, standing with a rifle2. A group of male soldiers, some holding rifles, one holding a ship's wheel3. A man on horseback (Ulysses S. Grant)4. A man sitting in an ornately decorated chair (Abraham Lincoln)	Possible responses: Why isn't the soldier named? Why are the soldiers in different poses? Why are all the statues of men? Why is Grant on horseback and not holding a weapon?
Where is the monument or memorial located? Describe the surrounding environment. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is outside in the center of a plaza or town square in Claremont, NH. It is surrounded by a small garden. A brick building is visible in the background.2. It is outside in a stone courtyard in Washington, D.C. There are trees visible behind it, but it is immediately surrounded by paved stone.3. It is outside on a grassy hilltop in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Trees are nearby but buildings are not visible.4. It is outside in a town in Kentucky. A building and road are visible in the background, which makes it seem like the statue is in the middle of a road or at an intersection.	Why are the statues outside? Why are some near roads and buildings? Who sees these statues? Do people walk by these statues everyday? Why were these locations chosen?
What material was used to make the monument or memorial? All the statues are cast of metal and standing on stone pediments or bases. The colors of the metal vary from a greenish patina to dark brown to reddish brown. The stone is gray and speckled.	What kinds of metal or stone are best for statues intended to be outside? Why not carve the statue out of a single stone?
How big or small is the monument or memorial? All the monuments appear to be larger than life size.	Why are these people shown larger than life size?
What details tell you this is a Civil War monument or memorial? Some of the statues have labels or inscriptions that explain what they signify or mean. The style of the soldiers' uniforms is another clue, as is the fact that the general is on horseback.	How many Civil War monuments or memorials are there in the United States? Do other wars have monuments or memorials?



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A Statue for Franklin Pierce

As you watch “Mason Explains: Who Was Franklin Pierce?” fill in the chart with evidence that could be used to support or oppose creating a monument to Franklin Pierce. Then, use the sources in “Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set” to add more to the chart and answer the questions. Remember to refer to evidence from the sources to support your responses.

Build the statue!	Don't build the statue!

Answer on the back:

1. Who was responsible for finally building the statue?
2. Why did it take so long for a statue of Franklin Pierce to be built in New Hampshire?
3. What does the statue's location tell us about the different perspectives on Franklin Pierce's role in Civil War history?

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A Statue for Franklin Pierce- Answer Key

As you watch “Mason Explains: Who Was Franklin Pierce?” fill in the chart with evidence that could be used to support or oppose creating a monument to Franklin Pierce. Then, use the primary sources in “Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set” to add more to the chart and answer the questions. Remember to refer to evidence from the sources to support your responses.

Build the statue!	Don't build the statue!
<p>Possible responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had served New Hampshire in many capacities in government. • He was the first and only person from New Hampshire to be elected and serve as President of the United States. • He did what he believed was right for the whole nation. 	<p>Possible responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He did not believe in abolishing slavery throughout the nation. • His decisions as President created more division, which led to the Civil War, so a statue of him would be disrespectful to those who served and died in the war. • He was an unpopular President.

Answer on the back:

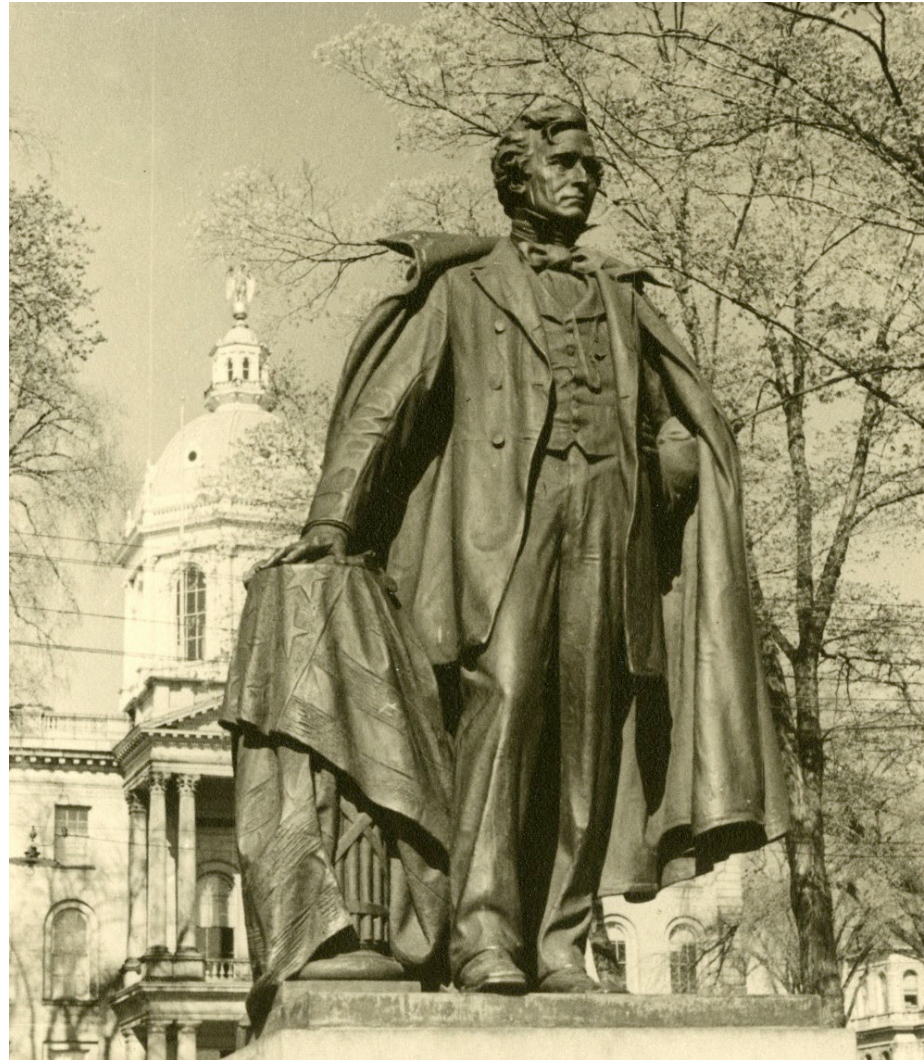
Possible responses include:

1. Who was responsible for finally building the statue? **The House and Senate both voted to approve the amount of money (raised from taxes) that could be spent on the statue. The governor and a special committee chose the design and location. A professional sculptor designed the statue.**
2. Why did it take so long for a statue of Franklin Pierce to be built in New Hampshire? **The two political parties had conflicting views about Pierce's role in leading the country into the Civil War. Republicans mostly believed Pierce's political decisions were poor and that he should not be memorialized. Democrats mostly felt his political views should not overshadow his many years of service to the state and country. Arguments and delays prevented a decision from being made for over 30 years.**
3. What does the statue's location tell us about the different perspectives on Franklin Pierce's role in Civil War history? **It's not entirely clear why the statue is located so far off to the side but it suggests that those in charge of building the statue wanted to make some sort of compromise between the different viewpoints about Pierce. He was certainly an important part of our state and national history, but his actions were not central sources of pride for the state.**



Lesson 10.4: How Much Do Civil War Statues Really Tell Us?

Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 1



Franklin Pierce Statue
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society

Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 2

Original Text

Joint Resolution for the Erection of a Statue of Franklin Pierce:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

That the governor and council hereby be directed to cause a statue to Franklin Pierce to be erected in an appropriate place to be by them selected, in the state house yard, the material, design, workmanship and dedication to be left to the discretion of the governor and council; and that to meet the expense thereof the governor be authorized to draw his warrant upon the treasury for a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars.

Approved May 13, 1913.

Source: *Dedication of a Statue of General Franklin Pierce, fourteenth president of the United States, at the state house, Concord, November 25, 1914*, New Hampshire Historical Society.

Edited Text (see note)

Decision to Create a Statue of Franklin Pierce:

Agreed, by the Senate and House of Representatives in an official session

That the governor and Executive Council will build a statue of Franklin Pierce in an appropriate place of their choice, in the state house yard, the material, design, workmanship and dedication will be decided upon by the governor and council; and that to pay for this project the governor is authorized to spend no more than fifteen thousand dollars from the state's treasury.

Approved May 13, 1913.

Important note: This text has been edited to make it easier for you to read. Some of the original punctuation, spelling, word choice, and capitalization have been changed.

Source: *Dedication of a Statue of General Franklin Pierce, fourteenth president of the United States, at the state house, Concord, November 25, 1914*, New Hampshire Historical Society.

Lesson 10.4: How Much Do Civil War Statues Really Tell Us?

Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 3**Original Text**

Turbulent scenes and bitter personalities marked a long debate in the house yesterday afternoon over the bill to erect a statue of Franklin Pierce in the state house yard, a proposition which comes up every session and causes a fight every time. . . . Pillsbury of Londonderry brought the excitement to fever heat. Pointing to the picture of George Washington, he declared that on this day, when the shade of Washington was looking down upon them, it was "a poor time to erect a monument to a traitor." He was interrupted by a demonstration which the speaker found difficult to subdue. There was some applause, but this was drowned in hisses. . . . Mr Pillsbury then. . . spoke of the "Fighting Fifth New Hampshire" as the regiment having "the most glorious record of any in the United States," but the state was "too poor to erect a monument to them."

Source: "Turbulent Scenes Mark Pierce Statue Debate," *Manchester Daily Mirror and American*, February 23, 1911. New Hampshire State Library.

Edited Text (see note)

Arguments and bitter comments marked a long debate in the house yesterday afternoon over the bill to build a statue of Franklin Pierce in the state house yard, an idea which comes up every year and causes a fight every time. . . . Representative Pillsbury of Londonderry brought the excitement to fever heat. Pointing to the picture of George Washington on the wall, he declared that Washington's birthday was "a poor time to build a monument to a traitor." He was interrupted by shouting which the speaker found difficult to subdue. There was some applause, but this was drowned in hisses. . . . Mr Pillsbury then. . . spoke of the "Fighting Fifth New Hampshire" as the Union Army regiment having "the most glorious record of any in the United States," but the state couldn't find the money to build a monument to them.

Important note: This selection has been edited from a longer piece of writing. Some of the original punctuation, spelling, and capitalization have been changed to make it easier for you to read.

Source: "Turbulent Scenes Mark Pierce Statue Debate," *Manchester Daily Mirror and American*, February 23, 1911. New Hampshire State Library.



Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 4

Franklin Pierce was the product of New Hampshire soil. The blood which gave force and energy to his chivalrous life was the blood of New Hampshire, and his qualities were such that they attained for him the chief magistracy of the nation, and it is highly appropriate that New Hampshire should erect a suitable memorial to his great achievements and his picturesque life.

Franklin Pierce's life covered prominent relations with the state government, the period of the Mexican War, the period of the great and much discussed compromises, a term as President of the United States, the years of momentous slavery discussions, the days in which occurred the shock of arms which disturbed the foundations of the government itself, and his status in history is such as not only to justify but to demand permanent and suitable recognition by his native state.

This statue is not erected to Franklin Pierce because all agreed in the political views which he held upon the great questions of the period to which he belonged. It is erected to the memory of a New Hampshire man of high and notable accomplishments.

Source: Excerpted from speech by Judge Edgar Aldrich. *Dedication of a Statue of General Franklin Pierce, Fourteenth President of the United States, at the State House, Concord, November 25, 1914*, ed. Henry Harrison Metcalf (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1914). New Hampshire Historical Society



Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 4 (edited)

Franklin Pierce was born and raised in New Hampshire. The blood which gave force and energy to his noble and good life was the blood of New Hampshire, and his abilities were so great that he was able to become President of the United States. It is highly appropriate that New Hampshire should build a suitable memorial to his great achievements and his picturesque life.

Franklin Pierce's life covered service in the state government, the period of the Mexican War, the period of the great and much discussed compromises to make free and slave states, a term as President of the United States, the years of momentous slavery discussions, the days of the Civil War which disturbed the foundations of the government itself, and his status in history is worthy of permanent and suitable recognition by his home state.

This statue is not built to honor Franklin Pierce because all agreed in the political views which he held upon the great questions of the period to which he belonged. It is built to honor the memory of a New Hampshire man of high and important accomplishments.

Important note: This text has been edited to make it easier for you to read. Some of the original punctuation, spelling, word choice, and capitalization have been changed.

Source: Excerpted from speech by Judge Edgar Aldrich. *Dedication of a Statue of General Franklin Pierce, Fourteenth President of the United States, at the State House, Concord, November 25, 1914*, ed. Henry Harrison Metcalf (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1914). New Hampshire Historical Society

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Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 5

In 1879 a Concord newspaper editor specifically mentioned Pierce when urging the legislature to install statues of "the distinguished sons of New Hampshire who have done honor to the state and nation in the public service." But the matter of Pierce deserving a statue was not easily settled. Over the next thirty years, nearly every discussion of memorializing Pierce involved both stirring speeches about the greatness of the former President and vicious responses occasionally referring to Pierce as a traitor.

In November 1912, Democrats and Progressive Party members took control of the state government for the first time in decades. Among the major changes they put in place were laws to grant Pierce recognition as one of New Hampshire's political stars. On January 8, 1913, just days after the Democrats took office, a long-time supporter of a Pierce statue who had introduced an identical bill in 1911 without success, proposed a resolution to build a Pierce statue. By May 13, both houses had agreed upon spending \$15,000 for a Pierce statue. This effort to improve the public opinion of Pierce came as the national movement for reconciliation between the North and South reached its peak.

A citizens' advisory committee worked with the governor to review statue designs as well as to select a site for the monument. On December 31, the committee accepted the design of August Lukeman, a protégé of famous New Hampshire-born sculptor Daniel Chester French. The statue's placement raised a bit of controversy when the plan called for it to be placed in a corner of the state house grounds that fronted on Main Street but was clearly on the edge of the state's property. The Daniel Webster, John Hale, and John Stark statues were all featured prominently on the state house grounds on the approach to the steps. Pierce's statue would be well off to the side.

Hundreds of people turned out on a rainy November day for the dedication ceremony. The speeches focused on healing the wounds of the Civil War and honoring those with differing political beliefs. The ceremony ran its course without any arguments or disruptions. The New Hampshire State House finally had a Franklin Pierce statue, more than thirty years after it was first proposed.

Important note: This selection has been edited from a longer piece of writing. This is a secondary source. It is an essay from a historical journal. Some of the original punctuation, spelling, and capitalization have been changed to make it easier for you to read.

Source: "Franklin Pierce: 'Great Statesman' or 'Traitor to the Country'?" *Historical New Hampshire*, Spring 2019, p. 82-93.



Franklin Pierce Statue Source Set: Source 6 (Recommended for use with grade 6-8)

History has measured his work and estimated his worth.

Courtly, brave and chivalrous, he was loved as few men have been loved in New Hampshire, and honored beyond any other of her sons.

Not alone was Franklin Pierce the only New Hampshire President, but he was the last president furnished by one of the smaller states, unless we reckon New Jersey as a smaller state. He came near the close of a definite period of our history which was ended by the Civil War; which, in turn, accustomed the nation to the massing of great bodies of troops or voters.

Source: Excerpted from speech by Clarence E. Carr. *Dedication of a Statue of General Franklin Pierce, Fourteenth President of the United States, at the State House, Concord, November 25, 1914*, ed. Henry Harrison Metcalf (Concord: State of New Hampshire, 1914). New Hampshire Historical Society



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Telling More: The Franklin Pierce Statue

What more do you think people need to know about the Franklin Pierce statue in Concord? Use this chart to plan how you will tell the full story.

Key ideas to include in your narrative	
Format you will use to tell your story	
How people will access your story	
Sources you will use	