The Men Who Made Rushmore

Excerpts from the 1992 documentary "The Men Who Made Rushmore" combine film shot during the carving of Mount Rushmore with Interviews of workers fifty years after the project came to an end. The men describe some of the equipment and techniques they used and talk about what it was like to work on the Monument. A survivor of one of the few serious accidents during the 14-years of carving talks about what happened. (Formats: DLL/SDPB)

Related Video

Cleaning Mount Rushmore: The following program features spectacular video showing National Parks Service workers using helicopters, ropes and harnesses to access every part of the sculpture. (Watch)

Black Hills and The Mountain Pine Beetle (Formats: DLL/Watch PBS): A look at what the ongoing and severe Mountain Pine Beetle infestation is doing to Black Hills forests (Mount Rushmore) and what is being done to limit the impact of the blight.
Activities for Classroom Use

Visit American Experience: Mount Rushmore for educational resources, including a Teacher’s Guide, an in-depth documentary about Mount Rushmore, an interactive, primary resources and more.

- Example Activity Ideas from the Teacher’s Guide

1. Imagine that you have been selected to oversee the addition of a fifth figure to Mount Rushmore; this person need not have been President but must symbolize what you think has been the most important change in the United States since the era of Theodore Roosevelt. Whom would you choose, and why?

2. Divide the class into groups of three students each. Each group should prepare a recommendation for a national memorial to the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and present its recommendation to the class, along with a sketch of the proposed memorial and information on where it would be located and how it would be financed. In their conversations about what kind of memorial to recommend, students should consider existing monuments and memorials and discuss what elements of those monuments are (or are not) effective; the website of the National Park Service contains links to places such as the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that students might want to consult.

- Visit American Experience: Teacher's Guide for additional activity ideas like the examples shown above.

Contact EdServices@sdpb.org for more information about SDPB’s educational resources.