

Remembering the Holodomor

Notes for
Discussion

There is no doubt that the *Holodomor* is one of the most horrific genocides of the 20th century. We study these types of events to commemorate them in our memories but also to learn how we might recognize and avoid them in the future. Often, tragic events like this are commemorated with monuments like *Bitter Memories of Childhood*, which is on display at the *Canadian Museum for Human Rights* and Manitoba's Legislative Grounds; both are replicas of the original work created for the *National Museum "Holodomor Victims Memorial"* in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital city.



- ← **Facial expression** - intended to depict sadness, helplessness, mourning
- ← **hair braids** - representing peasant life style and poverty
- ← **blouse with Ukrainian embroidery** - representing the nation of Ukraine where the *Holodomor* had its greatest impact
- ← **five stalks of grain** - held in the girl's hand, representing the *Law of Five Grains* which could result in even children being arrested or shot
- ← **emaciated body** - representing the toll taken on the human body after long periods of malnutrition
- ← **bare feet** - representing the destitute conditions survived by peasants living in poverty in Ukrainian villages
- ← **millstone** - beneath the girl's feet to represent the tool used to turn wheat kernels into flour used for bread
- ← **single figure** - intended to portray the fact that some families were decimated by the effects of *Holodomor*, leaving single survivors in some cases

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Name: _____
Date: _____
Class: _____

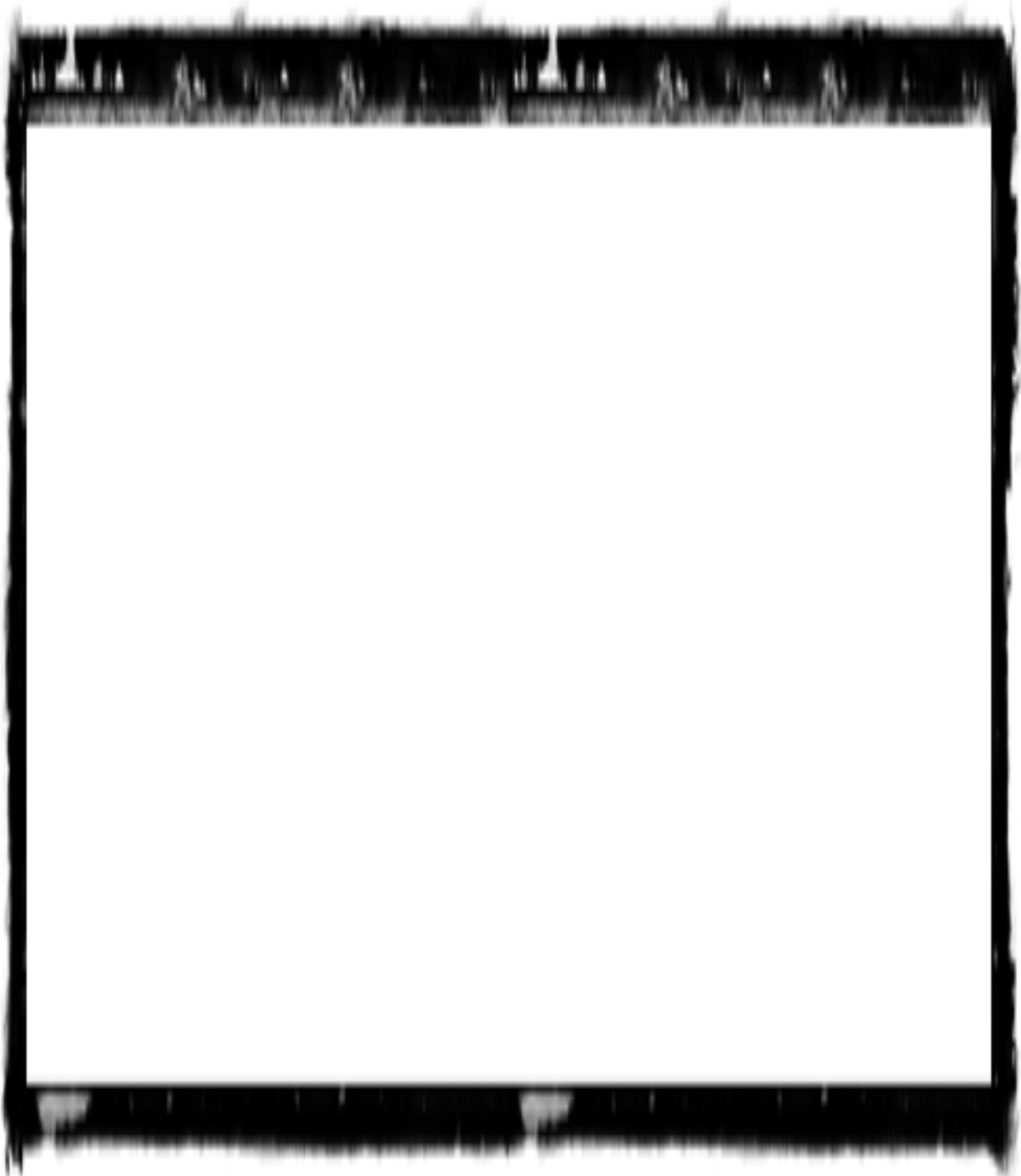
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In the space provided below: 1. List the main issues and themes that the *Holodomor* teaches. 2. What are the most important lessons? 3. Why should we learn about genocides? 4. How does it benefit us today to learn about the past?



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In the space below, design a monument to represent the *Holodomor*.

In your monument:

1. Identify **five** elements that are dedicated to a specific aspect of this genocide, as were identified in the *Bitter Memories of Childhood* monument. These elements could be symbols, the materials used, shapes, colours or single words, letters or numbers, phrases, or other.
2. Provide a brief description of your rationale for choosing your elements.

