



The Genocide Education Project

Memorialization and the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide: A Lesson Plan

I. Identify a memorial in your community or that you have visited and answer the following questions.

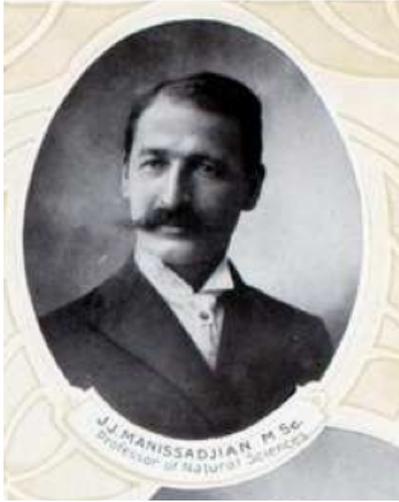
1. What is the name of the memorial?
2. Where is it located?
3. Does the location add meaning to the memorial?
4. Who is represented in the memorial? Why?
5. When you look/ touch the memorial what do you think about? How does it make you feel?
6. Who designed it? What was the artist's motivation behind the design?
7. Is the memorial appropriate for the community it serves?



8. If you could change anything about the memorial, what would it be and why?

II. Create your own memorial for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

1. After studying the Armenian Genocide and memorialization, why do you think it is important to memorialize such events? Include individual, historical and societal reasons in your response.
2. What aspect of the history of the Armenian Genocide do you want to memorialize? Provide historical details to support your choice.
3. Who do you want to reach with your memorial? The descendants? Inform others?
4. What type of memorial will you create? A statue? Mural? Museum? Etc.
5. What will it look like and why?
6. Where will you put the memorial (if it is a physical object)? Identify the city and place within that city. Explain your choices.



III. School Project: Creating a tulip garden.

J.J. Manissadjian was a professor of physical science at Anatolia College, Merzifon and a highly esteemed botanist and plant collector. He was born in Kiskar, Turkey, and studied in Berlin. He joined the American-backed Anatolia College in 1890, where he established a natural history museum containing thousands of specimens. Collections are sometimes labeled with the name A. Manissadjian, which perhaps comes from the title Agha.

Manissadjian was Armenian and survived the Armenian Genocide during the period of the First World War, but was arrested and imprisoned by Ottoman forces. He escaped and hid in a German agricultural colony near Amasya. He eventually fled to Detroit where he spent the rest of his

days.

Among Manissadjian's botanical collections from Anatolia was the newly identified tulip, *Tulipa sprengeri* Baker. *Tulipa sprengeri* is a tulip with an unusually interesting history. A single bulb was found in a shipment to the Dutch bulb firm of Van Tubergen from Manissadjian before the Armenian Genocide. Now the tulip is extinct in the wild but thriving in cultivation. It is rather symbolic that one can no longer find either this tulip or Armenians in the countryside of Amasya and yet both are thriving in diaspora.

Activity:

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, consider planting a tulip garden at your school. If an actual garden is not feasible, students can:

- Create paper tulips and "plant" them in a dirt space on campus. The instructions for this project, carried out by Fresno Unified School district, are included in GenEd's Armenian Genocide Tulip Garden Packet.
- Paint a "garden mural" or make a collage of tulips to cover a school wall

Students can create a plaque that explains why the mural or garden has been constructed.

For discussion:

How else can you inform your school about the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide?

What message do you want to leave with the student body about the Armenian Genocide?



The Genocide Education Project

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day April 24th

School or Classroom Announcement on Tulip Garden Project



The Armenian Genocide took place from 1915-1918, during World War I. An estimated 1.5 million Armenians, more than half of the Armenian population, were destroyed on the orders of the Turkish leaders of the Ottoman Empire. Virtually all Armenian property, both private belongings, businesses, lands, and community institutions, like churches, schools, and hospitals were confiscated by the government and distributed to Turks, or they were destroyed. Armenian leaders were arrested and killed, men were forced into army work battalions until they died or were killed, and women and children were forced on death marches for months into the desert, without food or water.

Many were robbed of their clothing, brutalized, raped, kidnapped and enslaved, and most died of the hunger and exposure to the desert conditions.

The Armenian Genocide is considered the first “modern” genocide, as it was systematically planned and implemented by the Ottoman Turks who were not held accountable, and no restitution was made to the victims. Adolph Hitler used the Armenian Genocide as an example when he explained his plan to wipe out the Jews of Europe. In a speech to generals before invading Poland in 1939, *Hitler spoke proudly of his intention to kill “mercilessly,” saying, “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”*

The idea of planting tulips is based on a discovery by the respected Armenian botanist and plant collector J.J. Manissadjian. He was arrested and imprisoned by Turkish forces, but survived the Armenian Genocide, escaping to Germany and eventually immigrating to Michigan. Among Manissadjian’s botanical collections was the newly identified tulip, *Tulipa sprengeri Baker*, which he discovered before the Genocide, sending a single bulb to a Dutch floral company. Now the tulip is thriving in cultivation, but no longer exists in the wild.

Today, April 24th is the anniversary of the first day of the Armenian Genocide in 1915, when Armenian leaders were arrested and killed, after which the rest of the population was destroyed. Everyone is invited to come to the quad at lunch today to create paper tulips in order to memorialize this day in history. In creating a tulip, you are promising to remember the 1.5 million lives and homeland taken, and the continuing injustice against the surviving generations.





The Genocide Education Project

Armenian Genocide Commemoration Tulip Garden Instructions for History-Social Science School/District Leaders

Dear High School Social Studies and Culture Directors,

Thank you for helping your school or district commemorate the Armenian Genocide on Friday, April 24th, through the creation of school tulip gardens.

An estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed in this first genocide of the modern era. Although the Armenian Genocide is part of the 10th grade CA History-Social Science framework and standards, the majority of people in the U.S. have not learned about it. This tulip project, based on the survival story of Armenian botanist J.J. Manissadjian, will allow students to learn more about this important part of history and to create a memorial to honor the victims and the losses endured by surviving generations.

Included in this packet is a message that can be read during your school's announcements on or before April 24th. It gives a brief history of the Armenian Genocide, explains the memorialization, and invites students to participate.

Find a central area on campus where students can create a paper tulip and stick their tulips in the ground as a "garden of remembrance."

You'll need the following items:

- School Announcement (provided in this packet)
- Tulip Instruction Pages (provided in this packet)
- Tulip Stencils (provided in this packet)
- Sample Tulip
- Pack/s of Colored Construction Paper
- Scissors
- Craft Sticks
- Glue
- Pack/s of Gel Pens

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Armenian Genocide Tulip Instructions

1. Use gel pen to trace tulip stencil onto construction paper (four tulips will fit on one piece of construction paper).
2. Cut tulip out.
3. On one side of the tulip write: "I will remember" and sign your name underneath.
4. On the other side of the tulip glue the craft stick about half way down.

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