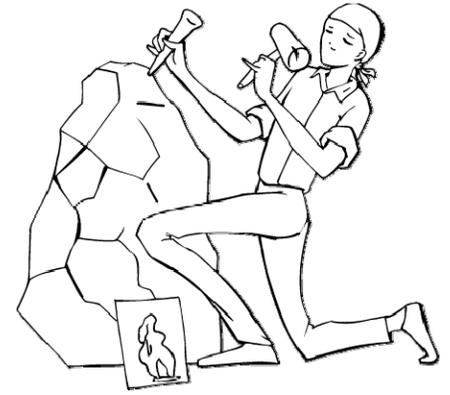


# Maya Lin



**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and then respond to the questions.

Maya Lin is a sculptor and an architect who designed the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. She is the child of Chinese parents who fled Communism, immigrating to the United States in 1949. Lin grew up in Ohio in the 60s and 70s, and went to Yale University to study architecture. While still a student there, she entered a blind contest to submit a design for the new Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. The rules required that the memorial had to “fit in with the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, include of the names of all the dead and missing from the war, and refrain from making political statements.” Lin designed a pair of two hundred foot long, polished black granite walls that form a V-shape. One side points to the Lincoln Memorial and the other points to the Washington Monument. On the wall are carved the names of 58,195 men and women who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War, listed according to the dates the soldiers were reported killed or missing, rather than in alphabetical order. Her design was chosen out of over 1,441 entries. Because the contest was “blind,” the judges did not know that they had chosen the design of a Chinese American, and Maya believes she would not have won the contest if the judges had known she was Chinese American. In fact, she was harassed her after her family background and age became public knowledge.

Today, Maya still works on sculpture and architecture. She has designed the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; the Wave Field at the University of Michigan; and the Confluence Project along the Columbia and Snake rivers in Washington and Oregon. She is also the author of several books and was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama.

1. Use key details from the text to explain how Maya Lin’s design for the Vietnam War Memorial complied with the context requirements.

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