

Worksheet: Being Remembered 1



Graveyards and cemeteries are special places, so make sure you show respect and talk quietly when doing these activities.

Graveyards and cemeteries can tell us a lot about burial customs past and present.

Activity 1: Gravestone design

As you walk through the graveyard or cemetery, notice the different designs and shapes of the gravestones.



On a separate piece of paper draw four of the most common shapes of gravestones.

Note next to your pictures the range of dates you have found on these types of gravestones.



Activity 2: Being remembered

In different periods there were different fashions in gravestones.

- ? Are there designs of gravestones in the graveyard / cemetery which are specific to one century, or are there designs which have continued to be used across the centuries?
- ? What dates had the biggest and most elaborate gravestones?
- ? Why do you think people wanted large and ornate gravestones?
- ? Why do you think people need gravestones? Is it important to know where someone is buried? Why?

Worksheet: Being Remembered 2

Activity 3: Burial customs

Look at the inscriptions on the gravestones. What do they tell you about the beliefs of the people who put up the gravestone?

R.I.P. stands for 'rest in peace'. How do you think these people viewed life?

You may also see carvings of skulls and religious symbols. Sketch them.

Find out what these symbols mean. Make up your own symbols to go with a burial ceremony, and sketch a picture of them.

Activity 4: Monuments

Are there any large monuments in the graveyard / cemetery? There may be a monument to soldiers who died in the First and Second World Wars, or a monument to an important person who lived in the area.

Why do you think people place monuments in graveyards and cemeteries? Would it be better to put them in a shopping mall or a cinema complex?



Activity 5: A modern memorial

Design and draw a modern memorial. It could commemorate an event, a famous person from the past or someone who is famous today.



Where would you put it?



Why do you think this person or event should be remembered?
Give your reasons.