

# What's the Story?



## Topic Focus

Local history, historical enquiry, literacy and handling data

## Overview

The activities in this topic enable children to explore a burial ground as a link to the past. Children will investigate headstones, monuments and memorials. They will reveal the stories of people buried there and understand more about who lived before them in their community and how they lived. The headstones commemorate lives lived and pupils will use them as a primary source of historical evidence as well as a source of information for data collection.

The activities are: Data Detective, Written in Stone, A Life Well lived, Local Legends.

## EYFS, KS1 & KS2

### Key Skills

Investigating  
Empathising  
Detecting  
Observing  
Deducing

### Key Words

Evidence

## Curriculum Links

The activities in this topic help develop pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding in History, Literacy, Maths and Computing.

### EYFS

Understanding the World  
People and communities  
Mathematical Development



### John Muir Award

**Discover**  
**Explore**  
**Conserve**  
**Share**



Try the following activities if you are working for any of the following badges:

**Rainbows** - Look and Learn

**Beaver** - Explore Activity

**Cubs** - Local Knowledge Activity

**Guides** - Culture

**Scouts** - Heritage Activity, My Faith Activity

## Written In Stone

The suggested activity encourages children to look at the headstones and other memorials as a window to the past. Children become 'History Detectives' and use evidence and information to find out more about the people who lived in their community.

### Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Recognise that burial grounds provide us with clues that help us find out about the past and the people who lived there
- Begin to make deductions using headstones as a source of evidence

### Key Questions

***What do headstones tell us?***

### Resources

Magnifying glass, writing materials e.g. clipboard, pencils

**My Record Of Evidence**

### Introduction

History Detectives examine and collect evidence. They are patient, observant and keen to make historical discoveries. Children take on the role of a History Detective. They could also give themselves a new name: Inspector ?? Detective ?? Chief Investigator ??

### Activity Idea

Look at 3 headstones and record all the information found on them on the **my record of evidence**.

**Discussion point** - What does the information tell you? Are there any clues to the person's job or the kind of life they led? Did they have a family?

### Plenary

Children share with the group what they have discovered. Which headstone or other memorial did they find the most interesting? Why? Have they uncovered a mystery? Do they have any unanswered questions about the people buried here? Record questions on the **my record of evidence** sheet.

### Back at School

#### Exciting Writing

- Write a biography for one of the people investigated at the burial ground. Research what life would have been like when they were alive and include it in the biography.
- Research the answers to the questions generated and recorded from the burial ground visit.
- From the evidence on the headstones create a family tree.



# My Record of Evidence



Collected by .....

Name on Headstone	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Age	Relationship in Family (grandfather, mother, son)	Inscription and Symbol	Family Members	Extra Information

What would I like to find out?

