

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

A Life Well Lived

The suggested activities provide opportunities for children to use artifacts and visual images as key source materials for developing awareness about the past. The objects offer clues and evidence about the everyday lives of people living and working in their community at different periods in time, unlocking their stories. It also allows children to make comparisons between people's lives.

Only wealthy people could afford a stone monument until about the 18th century when they became more widely used.

Rich and influential people chose to be buried in or near the church building, poorer people were further away. 'Strangers, paupers and those who had died a violent death' were buried on the north side of the church.

Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Interpret historical evidence to find out about people's lives in the past and what their characters were like
- Demonstrate an understanding of how artifacts and objects can provide evidence and help us discover more about the past

Key Questions

What do we know about the people who lived in our area? What do objects tell us?

Resources

Selection of objects relating to individuals in the burial ground.

Preparation

This activity will require careful planning and the collecting of objects to use which relate to an individual buried in the burial ground. You will need to visit the site to plan which individuals to investigate and remember you can invent a story for them. You could search for an individual from the period of time you are studying; the Victorians, the Second World War, the 1960's or 1970's etc.

The activity can be extended to include several people in the burial ground. Make comparisons between people buried there including wealthy or poor, men, women or children. You could use a handbag, school bag, treasure chest, toolbox, special box or pockets

in a jacket to present the objects. Each object should reveal something about the person buried there, what their lives were like and what they did when they were alive. The objects might include an item of clothing, an everyday object from that period like a toy, or tool, or household item, a coin, ticket, photo or a letter.

Main Activity

Detectives at work!

When this person died these objects were found in his/her pocket.

Discussion point - What do they tell us about the person? What do they tell us about the time they lived or their family? What do they tell us about the work they did and the life they led?

Example 1 – A wealthy Victorian man – pocket watch, pipe, smart walking stick, silk tie, Victorian coin.

Example 2 – A woman who died during the 2nd World War – handbag with a ration book, gas mask, gloves, purse with shillings and pence, shopping list, headscarf, photograph of a soldier, sewing pattern.

Plenary

With a partner, children choose a different headstone or memorial and read the information on it. What objects would this person have had with them when they died? Tell your partner.

Back at School

Exciting Writing

- Imagine you are a person from the past. Imagine a day in the life of that person, when and how they lived. Write a diary account.
- Children could create their own 'memory boxes' filled with special objects that tell us about them and the things that are special to them.

