

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

Local Legends

This activity is a good follow-up to the 'A Life Well Lived' activities and provides children with an opportunity to research and investigate in more depth the people in their community. In particular the people who made their mark on history - public figures, local heroes and heroines.

Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Use various sources of evidence to ask and answer questions about people and places

Resources

Writing material e.g. paper, clipboard, pencils, and a camera.

Research materials e.g. internet, information books, parish records, census returns.

Preparation

This activity will require careful planning and the collecting of data relating to an individual who is buried in the burial ground. You will need to visit the site in order to plan which individuals to investigate. Children will be looking for famous people or locally important heroes and heroines. Perhaps a person involved in an important historical event or tragedy. It may be useful to ask the burial ground site manager to advise and help with this activity.

1. War memorials and war graves could provide a good starting point for this activity and allow children to investigate the personal stories of the soldiers listed on memorials who fought in the 1st or 2nd World War. You can find out more about individuals by researching them on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website www.cwgc.org

2. Think about - Politicians, councillors, reformers, scientists, vicars, writers, artists, poets, soldiers, philanthropists, factory owners, sports personalities, inventors, musicians, actors, business people etc.

Key Question

What makes a hero or heroine? Who is your hero/heroine?

Introduction

Brainstorm – what makes a hero/heroine? Can you name one? Who is your hero/heroine? Collect words and phrases to describe a hero or heroine e.g. brave, creative, inventive, generous, clever and strong.

Every person buried in the burial ground did important things with their lives. Some people may have accomplished small things affecting just themselves and their families. Other people may have made greater contributions affecting larger numbers of people.

Activity Ideas

Research the life of a person buried in the burial ground. Identify their contributions to the community. Do you have someone famous in your burial ground? Do you have a local hero buried there? Find out where they lived, how they earned their living, and gather more details about their families. Are there any family members still alive and happy to talk to the children?

Where to Start

Very often when you are searching for a prominent person in a burial ground you begin with the prominent headstones or other memorials. Read the information and inscriptions on the headstones or memorials for clues. Collect names and dates and with that information use the internet to discover their stories. Search burial records, parish records, local histories, census returns, archived newspapers articles and obituaries to trace the stories of individuals.

Plenary

Why are they a hero/heroine?

Back at School

Exciting Writing

- Write a newspaper report about an event involving your hero/heroine.
- Write a letter to your hero/heroine.
- Write your hero/heroine's biography, draw a picture of them and create a Hall of Fame.

EYFS

- Share hero/heroine stories e.g. The Paper Bag Princess by Robert N Munsch, Isabel's Noisy Tummy by David McKee or Cannonball Simp by John Burningham.
- Find out about real life heroes and heroines and the jobs they do e.g. police, fire fighters, doctors, nurses and our mums, dads or carers.