

Additional resources:

How and why do we want to remember people?

Enquiry Question Exploration

Below are some concepts which may arise from discussion and activities. You can use the questions to facilitate dialogue.

Fame: What makes somebody particularly memorable? Does fame mean living a more lavish lifestyle? Does their memorial reflect their fame? How important is it to pursue fame and leave a legacy behind?

Death: What is death? What happens when we die? Where do we go when we die? Do people have a soul? What is a soul? How are our lives celebrated?



Memory: What is a memory? Why do we remember things? What makes you the same person you were yesterday? Is there such a thing as a false memory? Is remembering the past important? Is it better to have a memory of a moment, but no photograph, or a photograph of a moment, but no memory of it? If someone tells you about something you did before you were old enough to remember, and you tell someone else about it, is it your memory?

Power: What does being powerful mean? How does power influence a person? Is it ok to influence others? Why is power so important to people? What's the difference between power and authority? Why do we remember some people more than others?

Wealth: How is wealth defined and measured? Sheffield General Cemetery hosts the largest single grave plot holding the bodies of 96 poor residents but in the same cemetery there are the impressive memorials of several high-profile Victorian businessmen, such as the large memorial for George Bassett- what does that make you think? Does Bassett deserve a bigger and more spacious plot than the 96 others in the same plot? Does being rich entitle you to a better memorial?

Additional resources:

How and why do we want to remember people?

Prepare

1

Establish what monuments and gravestones are:

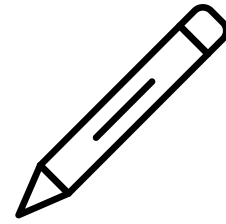
A **monument** is a particular kind of memorial, a statue, building or other structure like an urn or obelisk, something that makes it look more 'monumental' to commemorate a notable person or event. A monument does not always mark where someone is buried.

A **gravestone** marks where someone is buried. A gravestone is always a memorial but memorial is not always a gravestone.



Observational drawing top tips

2



1. Look closely

- Is it rough/smooth?
- Is it shiny/dull?
- What colours is it made up of?
- What markings can you see?

2. Feel it if it is allowed/safe to do so

- What are the textures? Soft/hard/bumpy/smooth...
- How might you draw those textures?

3. Take a step back

- Look at the whole object and it's surroundings
- What is it made up of?
- What is the overall shape?
- Has it got different shapes?
- Which parts are the most interesting?
- Which details are the most important?

4. Compare the sizes

- Which parts are small/large?
- How do the differing sizes compare to each other?

5. Frame it

- Do you want to draw the whole object or just one part?

6. Consider light and shade

- Where is the light source?
- What shadows can you see?
- Which areas are light/dark?

7. Keep checking and looking back

- Keep looking at what you are drawing and checking your drawing against it.
- Are the proportions correct?
- Have you missed anything?

Symbolism to look out for:

3



Urns at the top of a monument: symbolises death of the body but not of the soul. Reference to Greek and Roman culture. Signifies a level of good taste and fashion.

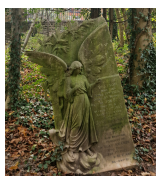
Drapery covering urns: represents a veil between life and death.



Wreaths: represents victory over death. In Ancient Greece a wreath was presented to a winning athlete while Roman generals who were triumphant in battle were crowned with laurel or oak leaves.



Lily of the valley: represents the return of happiness after the expulsion of Eve from the garden of Eden. Eve's tears are said to have turned to lilies as they fell to the ground.



Angels: agents of God and guardians of the dead. Guard the tomb, guide the soul, pray for the soul and direct the living to think of heaven. Are the angels male or female?

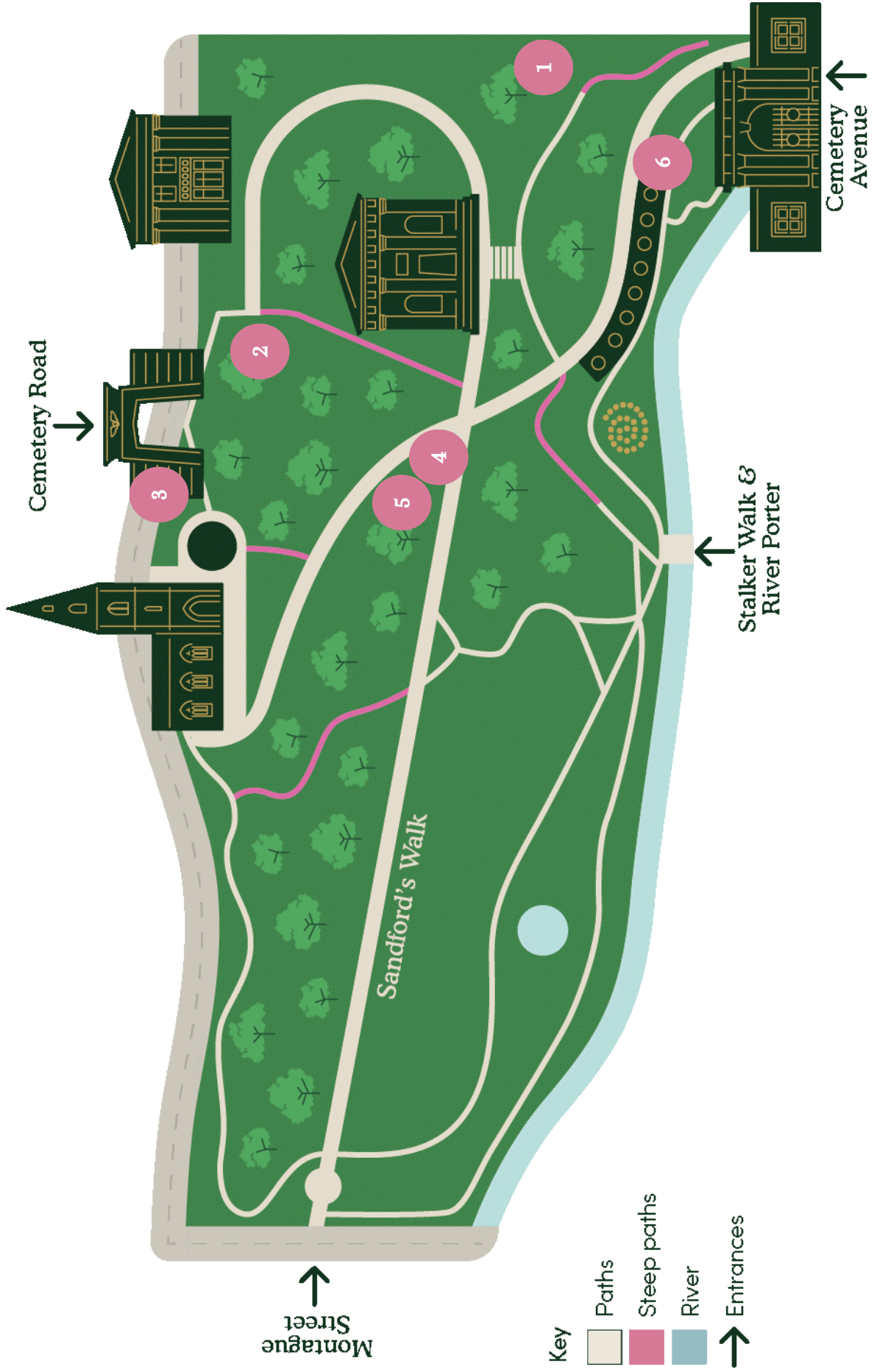


Figures of women: symbolises grief. Women's heads bowed down, weeping and bodies slumped in grief. Are they on the graves of men, women or both? Why are women depicted in this way and not men?



Flowers: reflect the frailty of life and bouquets symbolise condolences and grief. A garland of flowers. Most of the flowers seen on memorials are stylised and similar to each other rather than realistic which suggests that they were from a pattern book.

Map of Sheffield General Cemetery



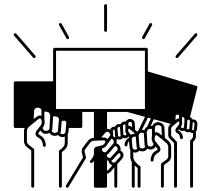
Stop 1 on the map - this grave is set back on a slope and the ground is uneven underfoot, so it is best to view from the path.

George Bassett was born in 1818 and died in 1886. He is well-known for the confectionery brand Bassett's in Sheffield today. Many think of Liquorice Allsorts and Jelly Babies when you hear George Bassett's name but those sweets were actually developed after George died. Charlie Thompson a Bassett salesman thought of the name Liquorice Allsorts when a shop assistant knocked a tray of different kinds of sweets onto the floor. The jumbled-up sweets became an instant hit and are still made today.



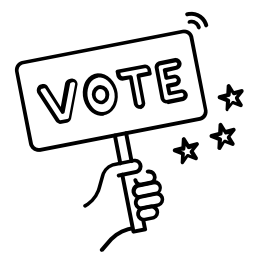
Stop 2 on the map - this grave is down a short vegetated path set off the main path. The ground will be uneven underfoot so take care.

Samuel Holberry was born in 1814. Samuel was not a rich man and he worked in a factory. Samuel thought that it was unfair that only men could vote for people to go to parliament to run the country and only men with money or land could vote. Samuel and other people got together to protest and to ask those in power to change the rules. The government did not like to be told what to do and eventually Samuel was put in prison for organising these protests. Samuel died in prison but is buried here in this Cemetery.



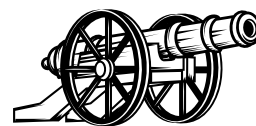
Stop 3 on the map - this grave has no headstone but is in the area near the entrance to the Anglican Chapel. Ask learners what headstone or monument they would create for her.

Eliza Rooke was a politically active woman campaigning for female suffrage. Chosen by Anne Knight (an Essex social reformer and pioneer of feminism), who was given a list by Isaac Ironside- a Sheffield Chartist and councillor who is also buried in the cemetery. On the list was Eliza Rooke, two other women were also chosen. Together Knight, Eliza and the other two women formed the Sheffield Women's Political Association. The association lobbied widely, writing to newspapers, attending meeting throughout the country and encouraging other towns to form their own women's suffrage groups. The life of the association seems to have been short- there is no further mention of it in newspapers after 1853, but it was extremely significant in the development of the Suffrage movement. Eliza died in 1856 aged 32 and is buried in a public grave, one of 19 burials in the same plot, including three children who died in the Sheffield flood of 1864.



Stop 4 on the map - this grave sits at the intersection of the main paths and the large monument is clear to see.

Mark Firth was born in 1880 in Sheffield. He set up a steel business and made a lot of money making armaments. He became the Master Cutler and then was elected as the Mayor of Sheffield. He gave a big estate to the City and this survives today as Firth Park. He built himself a mansion in Fulwood and that house is now part of Notre Dame High School. He opened Firth college which later became part of Sheffield University. Firth wing at the Northern General Hospital is named after him as is Firth Court a beautiful red brick building at the University.



Stop 5 on the map - this grave is set back slightly from the main path but the headstone can be seen easily.

Maria Gomersal, the daughter of a musician, was recorded in the census at the age of 17 as an actress, and boarding with a family in Wrexham. Two years later she married William Gomersal, lessee of Theatre Royal from 1869 to 1872. In the 1871 census she is described as an operatic singer and actress, and Maria had already toured in the United States with great success. She died at the tragically young age of 26, leaving a 6 year old daughter. She is buried alone in V1 157 (Anglican).



Stop 6 on the map - this grave is near Maria Gomersal's however the headstone has been moved to the middle tier of the catacombs and is largely inaccessible. You can view it from behind the gate.

Charlotte Taylor was born in Sheffield in 1827. She ran an anvil making business. She had eight children and was married to William Taylor. When William Taylor died in 1879 he left the sole charge of the anvil business to Charlotte who was 52 at the time. Two years later the 1881 Census taker mistakenly put Charlotte down as Charles Taylor anvil maker. A possible assumption that the head of a business must be a man. Charlotte ran the business successfully for more than twenty years. Charlotte died still in charge at age 77.

