

Enquiry Question:

How and why do we want to remember people?

Objective

To find out about important events and people in the local area by exploring monuments and gravestones in Sheffield General Cemetery.

1 Additional resources are available to support learning activities - look for the orange number to guide you.

Equipment

- Pen or pencil
- Paper and clipboard or a notebook
- Additional resources
- Map of Sheffield General Cemetery
- Small pebble for reflection

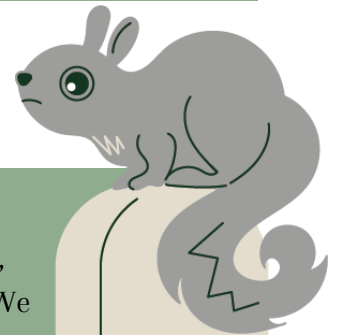
Time - this activity can take around **one hour and a half** to complete.

Prepare

Introduce the activity. Explain that we will be walking around the Cemetery looking at all the different shapes, sizes and designs of the monuments and gravestones. We will be thinking about why people chose the designs, considering the symbolism and whether the designs can tell us anything about the people buried in the Cemetery.

Explain that this Cemetery is no longer used for burying people but is like an outdoor museum or a 3-dimensional history book. It holds many secrets and with some exploration and detective work we can find out about the lives of some of the people buried here and about the times they lived in. **Have you ever seen the gravestone or monument of a famous person?** Establish what monuments and gravestones are.

What could you learn about a person by visiting their grave or monument? Is this a good way to remember somebody and what they contributed to the world when they were alive?



Explore

Share a map of the site so the learner is familiar with where you are going to go. Explain that at each stop they will have some questions to think about and also time for observational drawing. **Observational drawing is drawing what you see in front of you as accurately as possible.**

There might be an interesting shape to the monument or gravestone, or there might be words they want to remember, they might even notice the different sizes of gravestones/monuments. They might spot symbolism using the symbolism card.

Questions to think about:

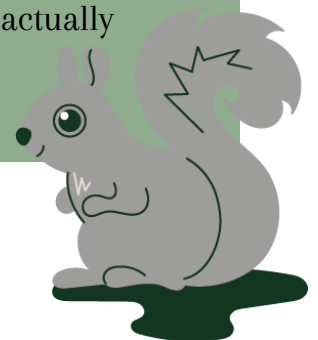
- **What kind of life do you think this individual lived?**
- **What do you notice about their gravestone/monument?**
- **What is the function of the memorial? What do they want us to feel? How do they make us feel?**
- **Do you think they are a memorable person in Sheffield? Why?**

Discover

You can follow the map and choose the stories of those buried in Sheffield General Cemetery from the additional resources provided. At each stop share the facts about the person, refer back to the questions learners could think about, and allow for observational drawing time.

George Bassett is well known for his confectionery company so **Why doesn't Bassett's grave have confectionery on?**

Well, George Bassett's life was very different to the brand that his name is known for. George was a churchman and a family man and was actually less interested in confectionery.



Share

Find somewhere to sit or stand in the cemetery park such as the story circle to discuss with the learner how the monuments and gravestones have helped with their understanding of how we remember people.

Gravestones and monuments can tell stories. Art can be used to help us understand life in a particular era. Old paintings can tell us lots about people and how they lived in times gone by.

The design of a monument can tell us something. Using stone in these monuments tells us that people wanted to be remembered for a long time as stone is a very hard, long-lasting material. Size can also be a sign for us. Larger structures could tell us that the person that is being commemorated was rather wealthy and they wanted to show that wealth. Other clues could be lots of intricate carvings on the stone.

Sometimes though, we must try and find out more about someone's story. An individual might have a small headstone, because they did not have much money when they died, but that does not always represent what they did in life, they might have done something very important. There are stories to be discovered from everyone's grave.

Gather in a circle and reflect upon these questions:

- **What did you notice about the gravestone/monuments of these people from Sheffield?**
- **What did you notice about women's monuments/headstones?**
- **Who do you think was most memorable and why?**
- **Did their gravestone/monument reflect this?**



Create

Design and sketch a monument. Learners can use the open green space to spread out more if they would like to.

Choose one of the Sheffield individuals you have learnt about.

Does their monument/headstone reflect their life? What features would you keep and what would you change?

Redesign their monument. You could take into consideration symbolism traditionally used in the Victorian era and its meaning.

Optional: Ask the learner to label features (symbolism, shapes, size) of the monument they have designed. **Can you explain the reason for your design choices? How is your monument designed to make people feel? Why would it make people feel this way?**

Follow up activity within the classroom or at home: Using their observational drawing from the Cemetery, learners could create their own clay monument.



Reflect

Gather back together in the circle. Remind the learners of their enquiry question: **How and why do we want to remember people?**

After a short moment thinking time, pass a small pebble around the circle so that each learner has a chance to say a final thought about what they have discovered.

You could take photos to share with others on social media using **#learningatGenCem** and tagging **@SheffieldGenCem** 