

Group 1 Names _____

Calculating Lifespans of Adults

Record the birth and death dates for 10 men and 10 women (over the age of 18 years). Calculate the years that this person lived.

MEN

WOMEN

Birth	Death	Age	Birth	Death	Age

Now average the ages of men when they died. Then average the age of women. What is the average age for men? _____ What is the average age for women? _____

Which group lived longer? _____ Do you think this is true today? _____

List the cause(s) of death if given at the gravesite:

Are there any common causes of death in this group of people? (This can be researched later in the classroom.)

Lifespans of Children

Now find the graves of 10 children (under the age of 18 years). Record their birth and death dates and ages at death.

Birth	Death	Age

What is the average age for children's lifespans? _____

List the cause(s) of death if given at the gravesite:

What else could explain the deaths of such young people?

What is the saddest **epitaph** you found on a child's tombstone?

What symbols do you find on children's graves?

What does this part of the cemetery say about the culture of the community?

Group 2 Names _____

Epitaphs
(Sayings on a tombstone in memory of the deceased)

What epitaph was the most common?

What epitaph was the saddest?

What epitaph that made no sense to you?

What epitaph tells something personal about the person?

What occupations of the women were given besides Mother?

What occupations of the men were given besides Father?

Who had more occupations listed (men or women)?

What does this say about the culture of the community?

Size and Shapes

What is the most unusual shape of tombstone? _____
Draw it in the space below.

What color of stone are most tombstones?

Do new tombstones differ from old ones in size and shape? _____ If yes, how do they differ from the old stones?

Can you tell the new part of the cemetery from the older part? _____ What gives you clues?

Group 3 Names _____

Common Symbols

What 10 different symbols do you find as you view the tombstones?

Which symbols do you find that indicate a religious background?

Which religious symbol is the most common?

What does this say about the culture of the community?

Private or Public Spaces?

How are cemeteries private spaces?

How are cemeteries public spaces?

Common Symbols in Cemeteries

angel--represents God's messenger, a Christian symbol

clasped hands--symbolize marriage

clover--represents the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Ghost)

cross--symbol of Christianity

crown--represents royalty, eternal life and honor

dove--represents Holy Spirit

grapes and grape leaves--symbolize the blood of Christ

ivy--symbolizes fidelity and immortality

lamb--represents God as the Good Shepherd or innocence

lily--symbolizes purity, innocence, beauty, marriage and Christ's resurrection

mansion or castle--from the Bible, "my Father's House has many mansions"

oak leaves/acorns--symbolize courage, strength, eternity, and virtue

open book--symbolizes the Bible

pointing fingers--represent the hand of God

rose--symbolizes love, beauty and perfection or it can represent Christ

roses on a cross--symbolize the death of Christ

sunburst--symbolizes the dawn of life

wheat-- represents the body of Christ

willow--symbolizes sorrow and grief

Group 4 Names _____

Demographics of the Cemetery

Record the last names for **10 different families** and research their original nationalities. (Use the resource sheet or internet for help on determining nationalities.)

Name of Family	Nationality of Name

Choose one and Mark it with an X.

_____ One nationality seems to have the most representation?
Which nationality? _____

or

_____ There is no real pattern to the nationalities

What do the names say about the culture of the community?

Which family group seems to be the largest one in the cemetery?

Learning about Geography and History from Your Local Cemetery

Do you notice any family names that are famous names in this area and might be the names of streets, buildings, towns, etc.?

Do you have any family or friends buried in this cemetery? _____
If you do, describe your feelings when you visit these graves.

As you look at the tombstones, how many women do you find that have their family (probably maiden) name on their tombstone? For example: Gale Olp Ekiss (Olp is her family name. Ekiss is her husband's last name.)

I looked at _____ women's tombstones.

_____ had the woman's family name included on the tombstone along with her married name

What does this say about the culture of the community?

Why would including the women's family names on the tombstone be important?

A Short History of Names

Biblical names became popular about 1200 AD. By the 1400's, over 80% of the people had names from the *Bible*. By the 1600s, names such as Hope, Charity, and Patience were popular since they reflected virtues.

European names sometimes came from:

Locality: Mills (near the mill) Woods (near the woods)

Relationship: Ericsson (son of Eric) Hopkins (kin of Hop)

Occupation: Taylor (tailor) Miller (works at a mill)

Description: Beard (lots of facial hair) Wilde (unruly) Stout (heavy)

Social Standing: Knight Pope Queen King

You can enter your last name on Ancestry.com to discover the meaning and history of your last name.

https://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts?&s_kwcid=+surname&gclid=Cj0KCQiAyszSBRDJARIsAHAQ4o-DUEP2VcJLYSyLoc9i8OwdBcB1Fe3cThWQ5ukT_yvkotpogUpgAgaAtEjEALw_wcB

Group 5 Names _____

Tombstone Tour of the Mesa City Cemetery

Locate the following graves using the block, lot and space number system described below. Answer the questions. **Please remember not to disturb graves or funeral services.**

Grave

- 10-2-4 **Benjamin F. Johnson**
What would we find unusual about this man if he were living today?
- 106-4-1 **Harry Lyman Chandler**
What was named after his brother?
- 152-4-4 **Zedo Ishikawa**
What is this young man remembered for saying?
What public building is named for his family?
- 72-4-1 **Frances Martin Pomeroy**
Read his tombstone. Tell me 4 things about him.
- 528 What kind of **military** men were buried here?
For what war were they training?
- 78-90 People from what part of the world are buried here?
Does this part of the world use a different alphabet than ours?
- 788-789 What **religion** are most of these people?
How did you know?
- North of the Office This was where people were buried during the **Great Depression**.
Why were they buried without markers?
- 677-1-2 **Ernesto Miranda**
Why is this man famous in the American legal system?

Look at the list of Mesa Residents listed in the Mesa Cemetery Walking Tour Guide.
How many are men? How many are women?
How many are Asian or Hispanic?
There are many more historical tombstones. What else do you notice?

Learning about Geography and History from Your Local Cemetery

Scoring Guide

Name of Student _____

Activity	Points Possible	My Points
Worked well with assigned group in the field and in the classroom	10 Points	
Completed the cemetery assignment correctly	10 Points	
Gave an appropriate oral summary of the cemetery assignment	10 Points	
Researched and created an appropriate tombstone for the deceased citizen	20 Points	
Total	50 Points	

Comments:

Scoring Guide

Name of Student _____

Activity	Points Possible	My Points
Worked well with assigned group in the field and in the classroom	10 Points	
Completed the cemetery assignment correctly	10 Points	
Gave an appropriate oral summary of the cemetery assignment	10 Points	
Researched and created an appropriate tombstone for the deceased citizen	20 Points	
Total	50 Points	

Comments:

Gravesite Visit

Your Name _____

Name of person I researched _____

Gravesite location _____

Here is what I found at the gravesite:

Name on tombstone _____

Birthdate _____ Date of death _____

Epitaph _____

Symbols on tombstone _____

What do the symbols and epitaph tell you about this person?

Is there any indication of how this person died?

Are there family members buried close by? _____ If so, how are they related to your person?

What did you learn about these relatives?

Is the grave located in a special region of the cemetery?

What would you like to learn about this person?

A Closer Look at People Found in the Mesa Cemetery

1. Look at the resource materials your teacher provided to research the person you were assigned.
2. Locate his/her grave and write down the location of the grave. (plot, section, grave number and latitude and longitude (GPS location) and record what the tombstone states.
3. Now read the tombstone information and any other research that you find, write at least one paragraph about this person.
4. Draw a tombstone for him/her that is different from the actual one. Create an epitaph that would fit his/her life. Be original and creative. **Do Not Use** the epitaph found on the actual tombstone.
5. Put your tombstone in the timeline of residents that your classmates are creating. Use the birth date for the correct placement on the timeline.

1. Dr. Lucius Charles Alston 0683-3-6	2. Charles Crismon Sr. 0076-1-4	3. Oscar Virgil Crismon 0888-2-3
4. Pedro Warner Guerrero 0643-4-4c	5. William Johnson LeBaron 0023-2-1	6. Collins Rowe Hakes 0070-1-5
7. Zedo Ishikawa 0152-4-4	8. Waylin Arnold Jennings 0766-1-6	9. Daniel Webster Jones 0024-4-5
10. John Leslie Lee 0500-3-8	11. John Taylor LeSueur 0195-2-3	12. Ramon Garcia Mendoza 0533-4-8
13. Delores Garcia Mendoza 0533-4-7	14. Ernesto A. Miranda 0677-1-2C	15. William M. Newell 0072-1-7
16. Hyrum William (H.W.) Pew 0061-4-1	17. Henrietta Druzilla Pew 0061-4-2	18. Francis Martin Pomeroy 0072-4-1
19. Charles Innes Robson Sr. 0072-2-8	20. Henry Clay Rogers 0047-4-8	21. Rulon Tracey Shepherd 0836-2-3
22. Ernest Kinsman Menhennet 0642-1-2	23. Kelly Lynn Cooper 0355-3-7	24. Ken Dyer 1335-3-6C
25. George W. Sirrine 0082-3-1	26. Orley Seymour Stapley 0476-1-8	27. Henry Standage 0050-4-3
28. John Jacob Rhodes II 1106-3-1	29. Wilford Parley White 1405-1-3C-	30. Benjamin Franklin Johnson 0010-2-4
31. Dr. Ralph Fleetwood Palmer 0123-1-8	32. Joseph S. Lamb 0026-2-4	33. Harry Lyman Chandler 0106-4-1

Online Resource Materials for Using the Mesa Cemetery

1. Go to <http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/mesa-cemetery> Click on Find a Grave.
<http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/mesa-cemetery/find-a-grave>
2. Find the person's name on the **Deceased Name Search Listing** to gain the death date, location of the grave and other information.
3. Return to Find a Grave <http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/mesa-cemetery/find-a-grave>
4. Click on www.findagrave.com and you will be redirected to a page where you can find information on your person.