Learning about Geography and History from Your Local Cemetery

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>Death</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.)
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Age</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

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?
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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?
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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
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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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Family</th>
<th>Nationality of Name</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

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?
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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=Cj0KCQiuAyszSBRDJARIlsAHAqQ4o-DUEP2VcJLYSlyLoc9i8OwdBcB1Fe3cThWQ5ukT_yvkotpogUgpAgaAteEjEALw_wCB
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?

**677-1-20**  
**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>My Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked well with assigned group in the field and in the classroom</td>
<td>10 Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed the cemetery assignment correctly</td>
<td>10 Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave an appropriate oral summary of the cemetery assignment</td>
<td>10 Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researched and created an appropriate tombstone for the deceased citizen</td>
<td>20 Points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50 Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
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**Comments:**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50 Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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?
Learning about Geography and History from Your Local Cemetery

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.

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

Online Resource Materials for Using the Mesa Cemetery

2. Find the person’s name on the Deceased Name Search Listing to gain the death date, location of the grave and other information.
4. Click on www.findagrave.com and you will be redirected to a page where you can find information on your person.