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Cemeteries and Kinship Studies: An Anthropological lesson.

For Grades 5 through 7

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Introduction for the Teacher

Why Encourage Your Students to Study Cemeteries?

Cemeteries are fascinating sources of information about many subject areas for students of all ages:

- Historical information about families and individuals who have made major contributions to your county or town,
- Public health information about epidemics and their effects,
- Directional placement of the graves that conform to widely held religious beliefs,
- Information about family makeup,
- Information about the age of the cemetery,
- Migration patterns that can be gleaned from places of birth and death,
- Family wealth that might be determined from the size and type of headstones,
- Military participation that is evident from the use of government-issued headstones and records,
- Headstone information that indicates the person or family's religious beliefs,
- Sculptural styles that symbolize one's personal interests or religious beliefs,
- Artifacts left by visitors to the graves that symbolize cultural or religious beliefs,
- Information about the size and types of plants selected to decorate the cemetery,
- Wear patterns on different types of stones used to mark the graves,
- The overall condition of the cemetery and how that indicates the relative level of respect and care that the graves have received from those in the local community.

It is our hope that the lesson plans and activities in this book will assist you in presenting the study of cemeteries to your students and help them to appreciate and respect cemeteries as a representation of their local culture.

The Structure of Each Lesson Plan

Each activity in this book is arranged by Grade Level and Lesson Number and is constructed around a “Big Idea” from the Kentucky Core Standards, Fall 2014. Other elements of each lesson plan include:

- Student Learning Objectives as Related to Kentucky Core Content Standards
- Vocabulary
- Teacher Materials and Aids
- Procedures and Methods
- Evaluation
- Enrichment Activity

BIG IDEA

Historical Perspective

Students will understand that geography, culture, and economics have a significant impact on historical perspectives and events (Kentucky Social Studies State Standard SS-5-HP-U-4).

Student Learning Outcomes	Related Kentucky Core Content Standards
1. Appreciate the historical importance of the Shelby City African American Cemetery.	<p>SS-05-5.1.1: Students will use a variety of primary and secondary sources (e.g., artifacts, diaries, maps, and timelines) to describe significant events in the history of the U.S. and interpret different perspectives.</p> <p>SS-05-5.2.4: Students will describe significant historical events in each of the broad historical periods and eras in U.S. history (Industrialization and Immigration, Twentieth Century to the Present) and explain cause and effect relationships.</p>
2. Identify key terms and define them.	<p>SS-05-5.2.1: Students will identify historical document, selected readings and speeches (e.g., Emancipation Proclamation) and explain their historical significance.</p>
3. Apply kinship and genealogical models to one's own family.	<p>SS-05-CS-U-2: Students will understand that cultures develop social institutions (e.g., government, economy, education, religion, family) to structure society, influence behavior and respond to human needs.</p>

Vocabulary

cemetery	African American	plantation	Slave
Civil War	soldier	restoration	Isaac Shelby
Jordan Wallace	Appomattox Court House	Matilda Stigall	Genealogy
Lambert "Jake" White	Census	Emancipation Proclamation	President Abraham Lincoln

Teacher Materials and Aids

- Historical documents such as the Emancipation Proclamation
- Maps
- List of Recommended Story Books
- Handouts as described in the Procedures below.

Procedures and Methods

- I. Introduction-
 - a. Shelby City African American Cemetery History
 - b. Genealogical efforts of the Shelby City African Cemetery Clean-up Project
 - c. Discuss slave life before and during the Civil War.
- II. Development-
 - a. Jordan Wallace Profile
 - b. Matilda White Stigall Profile
 - c. Story Books
- III. Practice-
 - a. Timeline Activity
- IV. Independent Practice-
 - a. Family Genealogical Project
 - b. Definition Worksheet
- V. Checking for Understanding-
 - a. Students will complete two profiles of their ancestors, with the help of their parents, and present them along with a “cultural item” or prop, to accent their stories.
- VI. Closure-
 - a. Summarize all materials covered.
 - b. Field trip to the Shelby City African American Cemetery

Evaluation

Students will complete a two-page handwritten essay, summarizing learned subject matter and describe why genealogical studies are important.

Enrichment Activity

Recommend that parents take their student to a cemetery of their choice to

- Examine the great variety of headstone symbols.
- Draw conclusions about the meaning of the symbols (e.g., what religious ideologies the symbol represents, who age, gender, or occupation the symbol might suggest).