

A Trip to the Cemetery

Timeline: One week (5 days)

Lesson Overview:

In this lesson, student will become familiar with holidays when local cemeteries are decorated, some of the family names there, plants and animals in the cemetery, cardinal directions, measurement of stones or markers, and types of markers.

Objectives:

- Identify holidays when cemeteries are visited
- **Identify names on markers**
- IDENTIFY AT LEAST ONE PLANT AND ONE ANIMAL
- IDENTIFY FOUR CARDINAL DIRECTIONS
- MAKE ESTIMATED MEASUREMENTS
- COMPARE WOOD AND STONE MARKERS
- MAKE A SIMPLE MAP OR CHART OF TYPES OF MARKERS

TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TEKS):

SOCIAL STUDIES, KINDER

- HISTORY K.1A EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR NATIONAL PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS SUCH AS MEMORIAL DAY AND VETERANS DAY
- HISTORY K.1B IDENTIFY CUSTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH HOLIDAYS
- HISTORY K.3B USE VOCABULARY RELATED TO TIME AND CHRONOLOGY
- GEOGRAPHY K.4 A USE TERMS INCLUDING OVER, UNDER, ... TO DESCRIBE RELATIVE LOCATION
- GEOGRAPHY K.5 A IDENTIFY THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PLACES SUCH AS LANDFORMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
- CULTURE K.12 A IDENTIFY FAMILY CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AND EXPLAIN THEIR IMPORTANCE
 - B COMPARE FAMILY CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS
 - C DESCRIBE CUSTOMS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY K.13B DESCRIBE HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS ACCOMPLISH SPECIFIC TASKS
- SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS K.16B CREATE AND INTERPRET VISUALS INCLUDING PICTURES AND MAPS

MATERIALS: BOOKS ABOUT HOLIDAYS, BOOKS ABOUT LANDFORMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, SIMPLE MAPS AND CHARTS, THREE RING SPIRAL NOTEBOOK OR PAPER AND PENCIL

PREPARATION:

PLAN A TRIP OR A VIRTUAL VISIT TO A CEMETERY. PREPARE A SIMPLE CHART TO COMPARE TYPES OF MARKERS OR UNMARKED GRAVES. MAKE A SIMPLE MAP OF THE CLASSROOM OR CAMPUS AND PREPARE A BLANK MAP FOR CEMETERY USE.

ACTIVITIES:

1. READ TO STUDENTS ABOUT A HOLIDAY WHEN PEOPLE VISIT CEMETERIES. ASK THEM TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES.
2. RECORD NAMES ON CHART TABLET, TRANSPARENCY, OR OTHER TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY OF TWO OR THREE DIFFERENT HOLIDAYS AND HOW THEY ARE CELEBRATED (EXAMPLE: PUTTING A CERTAIN

FLOWER OR COLOR ON A GRAVE).

3. MAKE A CLASS CHART OF THREE OR FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF CEMETERY MARKERS (WOOD, STONE, METAL, CEMENT, NO MAKER, OR OTHER). DISCUSS POSSIBLE REASONS WHY THOSE TYPES WERE CHOSEN (MATERIALS AVAILABLE OR COST). COMPARE HOW THE MARKERS ARE ALIKE (HAVE NAMES AND DATES) AND DIFFERENT (SIZE, WEIGHT, COLOR – NOT JUST DIFFERENT MATERIALS).
4. VISIT A LOCAL CEMETERY OR SEE ONE ONLINE. LIST THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS LAND, WATER, TREES AND OTHER PLANTS. DISCUSS POSSIBLE ANIMALS THAT LIVE THERE.
5. MAKE A SIMPLE MAP OF THE AREA LABELING NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST. DRAW A FEW OF THE CHARACTERISTICS LISTED. INCLUDE A MAP KEY.
6. DISCUSSION:
 - WHAT DID YOU SEE AT THE CEMETERY?
 - WAS THERE MORE OF ONE TYPE OF MARKER?

WAS ANYTHING WRITTEN ON THE MARKER?

HOW MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF MARKERS WERE THERE?

WHAT DIRECTION DID THE MARKERS FACE?

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS LOCATION WAS CHOSEN FOR THE CEMETERY?

WHAT NAMES AND DATES DID YOU FIND?

WHAT KINDS OF PLANTS OR ANIMALS DID YOU SEE?

OTHER COMMENTS

EXTENSIONS:

- MAKE A CHART OF THREE OR FOUR FAMILY NAMES

PLACE DATES ON A TIMELINE

CALCULATE AGES OF THOSE BURIED IN THE CEMETERY

COMPARE SIZES OF MARKERS

ONLINE REFERENCES:

WWW.CEMETERIES-OF-TEXAS.COM/ETX/HIDALGO/LISTHIDALGO.HTM;

<http://www.texasescapes.com/TOWNS/Brownsville/Brownsville-city-cemetery-Texas.htm>

www.texasescapes.com/TOWNS/Brownsville/Brownsville-city-cemetery-Texas.htm;

<http://www.elmwoodcemetery.org/>

www.elmwoodcemetery.org (Memphis gallery videos);

<http://www.museumplanet.com/tour.php/nyc/wc/1>

www.museumplanet.com/tour.php/nyc/wc/1 (Woodlawn Cemetery in New York City, the Bronx);

<http://www.arlingtonnationalcemetery.com/>

www.Arlingtonnationalcemetery.com;

EVALUATION OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Have students keep a notebook of what they are learning. It may include:
 - A HOLIDAY CHART AND HOW IT IS CELEBRATED
 - A CHART OF WAYS TO MARK A GRAVE AND HOW THEY ARE ALIKE AND DIFFERENT
 - A SIMPLE CLASSROOM OR CAMPUS MAP WITH A KEY. INCLUDE THE FOUR CARDINAL DIRECTIONS, AND ITEMS THAT ARE FROM NATURE AND MAN-MADE

2. HAVE STUDENTS WRITE AND DRAW ABOUT A HOLIDAY YOU HAVE DISCUSSED AND HOW IT IS CELEBRATED (MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS' DAY, DAY OF THE DEAD, SEPT. 11 OR OTHER HOLIDAYS OR ANNIVERSARIES WHEN WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED.)

3. COMPLETE A CHART COMPARING TWO OR MORE HOLIDAYS OR ANNIVERSARIES COMPARING HOW THEY ARE THE SAME AND DIFFERENT.

4. COMPLETE A CHART COMPARING TWO OR MORE TYPES OF CEMETERY MARKERS AND HOW THEY ARE ALIKE AND DIFFERENT.

5. MAKE A MAP THAT INCLUDES: (20 POINTS)
 - TITLE, NAME, AND DATE (3 POINTS)
 - THE FOUR CARDINAL DIRECTIONS (N,S,E,W) (4 POINTS)
 - A MAP KEY (WITH AT LEAST 5 ITEMS: 2 NATURAL, 2 MAN MADE PLUS 1 MARKER SYMBOL) (5 POINTS)
 - NAMES OF TWO PEOPLE BURIED THERE (2 POINTS)
 - BIRTH AND DEATH DATES OF TWO GRAVES (2 POINTS)
 - TWO NATURAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS (2 POINTS)
 - TWO MAN-MADE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS (2 POINTS)

SCORING SUGGESTIONS: USE TEACHER DISCRETION

16-20 E 90-100

11-15 S 80-89

6-10 N 70-79 OR LOWER

1-5 U 60-69 OR LOWER