



## Step 1 Investigating St James' Graveyard LESSON PLAN

### Learning outcomes

- Understand a locality's past through investigating a significant local building.
- Understand that this locality was the home of people from all walks of life.

### Content

Visit to St James' Graveyard to hunt for and record information about six people buried there.

### Preparation and resources

- Book the graveyard visit and pre-visit\*. Risk assessment information can be provided.
- Arrange to borrow, or download, the resources needed\*: **each group** should have – **Step 1 visit leaders' crib** including instructions and a gravestone text crib; **at least two Step 1 visit trail maps** to share; a graveyard fact file (**Step 1 visit worksheet**) and a **clipboard with pencil**.
- Decide on your route and whether you want to use the journey as a learning activity.
- Decide on group numbers (maximum of 10 children per group for safety and access to gravestones) and prime the group leaders.
- Consider how you want to debrief and prepare **six large (A2 or A3) blank sheets**, with the name of one St James' person on each, ready to be filled used for a spider diagram.

### Journey advice and recommended time

- Schools within the West End cluster are all within walking distance of St James, some being very close by. For schools on the periphery, the walk can become part of the hunt if desired.
- For example, Hawthorn Primary and St Paul's CE Primary have taken 30-40 minutes to walk, with stops to look for e.g. Victorian housing, dates on buildings, views across the Tyne, road names, shops on Adelaide Terrace. Another option is to walk one way and take a bus back or vice versa.
- Plan to spend an hour in the graveyard – or more if you want pupils to sketch or explore.

### Facilities at the graveyard

- The church hall has toilets, available by arrangement.
- Shelter in bad weather can be in the church hall, by arrangement. It may be possible for you to visit the church itself, which contains some relevant memorials, again by arrangement.

### Activity

- **On arrival, bring everyone together** at a chosen start and end point.
- **Split the class** into 3 or more groups, each led by an adult primed beforehand with instructions and resources (gravestone text crib for the group leader; at least two graveyard trails to share; a clipboard with pencil and graveyard fact file sheet).
- **Remind the class of your objective** – to see what information can be found from the graveyard about six people buried here during the church's first hundred years. Explain that pupils are to find the gravestones and record the information on them. Issue safety advice.
- **Assign each group a different gravestone** to start at (e.g. 1, 3 and 5) and insist that the groups progress in numerical order (thus a group starting at 5 will move on to 6 then 1).
- **Set a deadline** to finish. 45 minutes is more than enough time – any groups back early can look at other gravestones of interest. Now get hunting.
- **Debrief** about what's been found as soon as possible, either in the graveyard or when you're back at school. If doing the whole History Hunt, introduce the class spider diagrams and invite groups to suggest information for each one.



\*Book visit and borrow from: Pendower Good Neighbour Project 0191 272 2962 / [patpen@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:patpen@blueyonder.co.uk)

Extra activity option: extended Grainger project (includes a Graingertown walk)