



## Protecting the Tyne: Researching First World War Graves

### Lesson Plan: Researching First World War Graves in St Stephen's Church Yard

<b>Teacher/s</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Subject History</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Learning Objectives</b> Develop the use of historical terms related to cemetery research. Use a range of historical information including primary sources. Use site research to inform an historical enquiry.	<b>Success Criteria</b> The children will understand the historical significance of their local churchyard or cemetery.
<b>Key Questions</b> What can we find out about the First World War from headstones in St Stephen's Church? How can we record and display the information collected? What is the role of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission?	
<b>Starter Activity/Introduction</b> Discuss how the children should behave during the church and cemetery visit and how their behaviour might impact on other people visiting graves. Use the image of Private Ridley's grave on page 3/4 to practice completing the CWGC site visit record sheet. Explain terms used on the record sheet like rank, regiment and service number.	<b>Resources</b> Researching First World War Headstones in Preston Record Sheet
<b>Main Activity</b> Visit to St Aiden's & St Stephen's Church Yard. Although the graves are open access, the church is often locked and a visit needs to be booked with a Church Officer. Pupils to work in pairs to record 2/3 WW1 headstones. Remind them they are looking for stones dated 1914-1920, not 1939-45. CWGC allow grave rubbings, provided no marks are left – discuss appropriate media with the class for example soft pencil and charcoal sticks. Additionally record details of those remembered on the Wellington Street Memorial. The Nessworthy brothers make a good case study.	<b>Resources</b> Researching First World War Headstones in St Stephen's Churchyard: Record sheet Ipads/digital cameras, large sheets of sugar paper, charcoal sticks, soft pencils
<b>Plenary</b> Organise and evaluate the information collected. Discuss findings: oldest and youngest servicemen; different military units; varied ranks; years of death; family inscriptions. Research the servicemen recorded during the cemetery visit on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Site or download and view the CWGC spreadsheet for St Stephen's Cemetery. Write a report on the cemetery visit. Include a description of the activities undertaken, the condition of the cemetery and how the children felt about being so close to the graves.	<b>Resources</b> CWGC website, completed cemetery record sheets Look up the Nessworthys at war in a search engine - <a href="https://www.craxford-family.co.uk/themeblue/ness4ww1.php">https://www.craxford-family.co.uk/themeblue/ness4ww1.php</a>





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### Researching First World War Headstones in St Aiden's and St Stephen's Churchyard: Record Sheet

Researchers' Names

Badge (at the top of the grave)

Description

Sketch of Badge

Serviceman's name

Rank

Service (Army, Navy or other)

Service Number

Regiment or Ship

Date of Death

Age

Religious symbol (usually a cross)

Inscription (bottom of the grave)





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What do you think the badge of the Northumberland Fusiliers shows?