



## For Those in Peril on the Sea: Researching First World War Graves

### Lesson Plan: Researching First World War Graves in Tynemouth Cemetery

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| <b>Teacher/s</b>  | <b>Date</b>  |
| <b>Subject History</b>  | <b>Year</b>  |
| <b>Learning Objectives</b><br>Develop the use of historical terms related to cemetery research.<br>Use a range of historical information including primary sources.<br>Use site research to inform an historical enquiry.   | <b>Success Criteria</b><br>The children will understand the historical significance of their local churchyard or cemetery.   |
| <b>Key Questions</b><br>What can we find out about the First World War from headstones in Tynemouth Preston Cemetery?<br>How can we record and display the information collected?<br>What is the role of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission?  |  |
| <b>Starter Activity/Introduction</b><br>Discuss how the children should behave during the cemetery visit and how their behaviour might impact on other people visiting graves. Use the image of Ernest Head's grave on page 3 to practice completing the CWGC site visit record sheet. Explain terms on the record sheet like rank and service number.  | <b>Resources</b><br>Researching First World War Headstones in Preston Record Sheet.  |
| <b>Main Activity</b><br>Visit to Preston Cemetery. Remember to notify North Tyneside Bereavement Services of the visit. 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, but not wax crayons.  | <b>Resources</b><br>Researching First World War Headstones in Preston Cemetery: Record sheet.<br>Ipad/digital cameras, sugar paper, charcoal sticks, soft pencils. |
| <b>Plenary</b><br>Organise and evaluate the information collected. Discuss findings: oldest and youngest servicemen; different ships; naval ranks; years of death; memorials from family or shipmates inscriptions. Research the servicemen recorded during the cemetery visit on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Site or download and view the CWGC spreadsheet for Preston 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><br>CWGC website, completed cemetery record sheets.  |





## For Those in Peril on the Sea: Researching First World War Graves

### Researching First World War Naval Headstones in Preston Cemetery: Record Sheet

Researchers' Names

Badge (at the top of the grave)

Description

Sketch

Serviceman's name

Rank

Service (RN, RNR, RNVR or other)

Service Number

Ship

Date of Death

Age

Religious symbol (usually a cross)

Inscription (bottom of the grave)



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