Cemeteries in Indiana

Walking Tour of Southern Indiana Cemeteries

Purpose: Students will learn about the cemeteries in southern Indiana, interpret symbols used on grave markers, create a display, and present the information.

Subjects: Indiana Social Studies Standards 2023: History—Students trace historical periods, people, places, events, and movements that led to the development of Indiana as a state; 4.H.14 —Using primary and secondary sources.

Materials Needed: online slide presentation program or trifold displays, access to research materials, list of cemeteries in the county (use the list provided and add other familiar locations)

Steps:
1. Discuss the quote by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Edmund B. Whitman (1868): "That nation which respects and honors its dead, shall ever be respected and honored itself."
2. Students will research cemeteries in their county (or several counties), create a slide show, display and present their information during a walking tour. Types of cemeteries are: public, private, religious, veteran, and green or natural cemeteries.
3. Divide the cemeteries amongst the students. Look for databases online of the cemeteries.
4. Create a rubric of categories required, such as: name of cemetery, location, size, significant grave markers, obituaries, description of symbols, facts, type, restoration efforts.
5. Allow time for students to finalize their research and presentation.
6. Have students tour the displays. Create a scavenger hunt of items to find.

Differentiation:
• Have students work together in pairs.
• Provide an option of a virtual project or a paper one.
• Assign a local historical figure instead of the entire cemetery.
• Have students examine grave markers from photos and identify names, dates, and symbols.
• Focus on the military cemeteries or markers, discussing the branch of service, the military conflict, ranking of the individual

Extensions:
• **Reading:** Check for comprehension and critical thinking skills as students locate research materials.
• **Math:** Measurement of markers; discuss the two terms—cemetery and symmetry—and the meanings of each; Compute
• **Art:** Explore the meaning of the symbols and artwork on the markers.
• **Science:** Identify the materials used for the markers; contrast the signs of erosion and weathering.
• **Writing:** Contrast historical obituaries with modern ones; take a position on a public issue concerning a cemetery or burial ground and defend your opinion.

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- **STEM:** Engineering opportunities include the design of the cemetery, restoration of markers using special equipment, roadways and walkways for accessibility
- **Museums:** Invite your local historical society members to speak.
- **Field Trip:** Visit a nearby cemetery. Follow the caretaker's guidelines.

Resources

- Find A Grave
- Teach From the Grave projects (The History Channel)
- Department of Natural Resources—Historic Preservation & Archaeology—Cemeteries: Cemetery & Gravestone Symbology, Glossary of Cemetery Related Terms, Cemetery Preservation ("Cemeteries have been a part of our cultural landscape as long as people have lived in Indiana. The size, ornamentation, and documentation of these grounds vary with religious affiliation, cultural group, the wealth of families, and the situation surrounding the person's death. Native American burial practices varied widely depending on the time period, cultural group, and family beliefs. Both historic cemeteries and prehistoric burial areas can be found in every Indiana County.")
- Teaching From The Grave—Community History at the Local Cemetery: A Save Our History How To Project Guide
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (https://savingplaces.org)--Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds (pdf by Lynette Strangstad)
- Indiana Pioneer Cemeteries Restoration Project

Other Noteworthy Locations and Information

- Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis; one of the largest private cemeteries in the US (550 acres)
- Green Hill Cemetery, Bedford; extensive limestone markers (http://www.greenhillbedford.com)
- Pioneer Cemetery, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial (US National Park Service); Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln
- Old Pigeon Cemetery, Lincoln State Park, Spencer County; Sarah Lincoln Grisby, sister of Abraham Lincoln
- Bloedner Monument, Frazier History Museum, Louisville; oldest Civil War Memorial, an 1862 monument carved by Private August Bloedner for the soldiers of 32nd Indiana Infantry (Indiana's first German regiment) who died at the Battle of Rowlett's Station near Munfordville, Kentucky
- Folding of the US flag (https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/flagfold.pdf)

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Significant Grave Markers In 8 Southern Indiana Counties

Clark County
- Charlestown Cemetery, Charlestown; John Smith Simonson, Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General; John Carr, US Congressman
- Halycon Hill Cemetery, Charlestown; Jonathan Jennings, first governor of Indiana
- Walnut Ridge Cemetery, Jeffersonville; Josephine Sanders and Harlan Sanders, Jr., wife and son of Colonel Sanders, Kentucky Fried Chicken; Cyrus Livingston Dunham, US Congressman; Jonas George Howard, US Congressman

Crawford County
- Fullenwider Family Cemetery, Alton; Jonathan Boone (1827), nephew of Daniel Boone

Dubois County
- Fairmount Cemetery, Huntingburg; William Elijah Cox, US Congressman; John Lewis Bretz, US Congressman
- St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Jasper; John Mehringer, Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General

Floyd County
- Abundant Life Memorial Gardens, New Albany; Rose Leigh Monroe, the original Rosie the Riveter
- Fairview Cemetery, New Albany; 500 soldiers and sailors, since 1841; Daniel F. Griffin, Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General; Charles H. Seston, Civil War Medal of Honor recipient; DeWitt Clinton Anthony, Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General; George Augustus Bicknell III, Admiral US Navy; George Jouett Meekin, Major League baseball player; Michael Crawford Kerr; Simeon Kalfius Wolfe, US representative and newspaper editor; Ashbel Parsons Willard Sr., Indiana governor; James Whitson Dunbar, US Congressman; George Augustus Bicknell, US Congressman
- Freedom Land Cemetery, New Albany; African Americans, earliest is 1854
- Holy Trinity Cemetery, New Albany; Sherman Minton, US Senator and Judge
- New Albany National Cemetery, dedicated in 1862
- St. Mary of the Knobs Cemetery, Floyd Knobs; Gerry Huth, professional football player

Harrison County
- Cedar Hill Cemetery, Corydon, main burial grounds since 1808; graves of veterans from each of the American wars starting with the American Revolution; William Theopilus Jones, US Congressman; Frank Lewis O'Bannon, Indiana governor; Robert John Tracewell, US Congressman; William Taylor Zenor, US Congressman
- Milltown Cemetery, Milltown; William Hayes Proctor, Lieutenant Civil War, 38th Indiana Infantry

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Knox County
- Greenlawn Cemetery, Vincennes; Thomas Lee Cobb, US Congressman; William Allen Cullop, US Congressman; John Law, US Congressman
- Memorial Park Cemetery, Vincennes; Matthew Empson Welsh, Indiana governor
- The Old Cathedral "French and Indian" Cemetery, Vincennes; the final resting place of more than 4,000 early citizens of Vincennes, many of French descent
- Pyramid Mound (a natural feature), Vincennes; Late Woodland Indianas, 900 AD, burial mound
- Vincennes City Cemetery, Vincennes; oldest cemetery with stone dated 1788
- Walnut Grove Cemetery, Monroe City; James Douglas Williams, Indiana governor, US Congressman

Orange County:
- Ames Chapel Cemetery, Paoli; William Wesley Kendall, Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient
- Green Hill Cemetery, Orleans; William Thomas Spicely, Civil War Union Army Brevet Brigadier General; Edward L. Jackson, Indiana governor
- Lick Creek African American Settlement, Paoli (https://www.indianaconnection.org/gone-home-revival-lick-creek/)
- Stampers Creek Cemetery, Paoli; Ken Trinkle, Major League baseball player

Pike County
- Blackfoot Cemetery, Morgan Township; named for the Blackfoot tribe and first burial ground in the area
- Indian Mound Cemetery, Petersburg; about 30 marked graves on top of an Indian burial ground
- Mount Hebron Cemetery, Ayrshire; African American cemetery