

ACTIVITY 1.3**MAKE A GRAVESTONE RUBBING**

In 1967, Violet Pritchard made rubbings of the graffiti in English churches near Cambridge. You can practice her technique by making a rubbing of a gravestone.

Materials

- » Large piece of white paper or newsprint
- » Three pencils, sharpened so that some graphite is exposed. (An artist graphite stick would work well, too.)
- » Masking tape
- » Soft brush, like a cosmetics brush

Directions

- » Find a gravestone with letters that are engraved into the stone. If the gravestone is in a church or other private cemetery, you must get permission to do the rubbing.
- » Make sure the stone you choose is not cracked or in such poor condition that your rubbing might cause further damage.
- » Consider observing a minute of silence for the person who is buried in the grave. You might think about how old the deceased was when he or she died; or what you know from history about the time period in which he or she lived.
- » Using a soft brush, gently brush off dirt and other debris in the area of the lettering.
- » Place the paper over the face of the stone and secure it at the top and sides with masking tape.
- » Rub the pencil lead back and forth across the paper so that the lettering appears.
- » Remove the paper and masking tape. Make sure you leave the gravestone and the area around it in good condition.



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