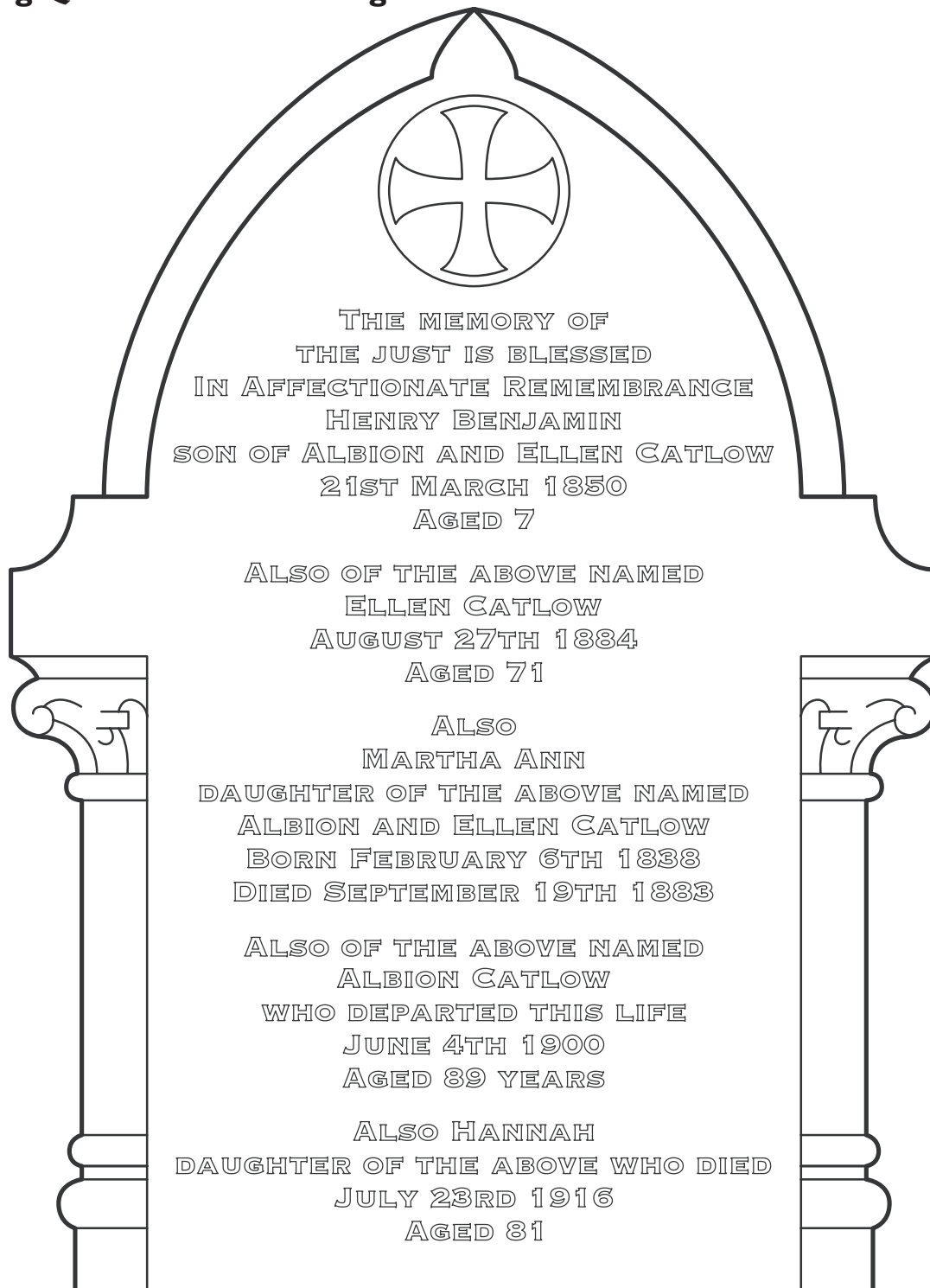


Gravestone studies

Many of the gravestones in a cemetery were erected in Victorian times. From them you can find information about people who lived during Queen Victoria's reign.



Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 6 and 7** of *How life changed in Victorian times*

Gravestone studies

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheets. Access to a cemetery (Following all school policies on visits).

Using the worksheet

This activity allows the students to look for information about Victorians who lived in their town. The record on a gravestone is comparatively simple compared to other forms of written evidence from this time and provides an introduction to looking at written evidence.

You should make a preliminary visit to a cemetery to try and locate gravestones which come from as early as possible in the Victorian era. Some of these gravestones may be badly weathered and the detail may not be clear to see. Select a few gravestones which show that perhaps six or seven members of a family are interred. Also look for gravestones which state the occupation of the deceased. See if you can find one with the word *relict* on it. This means 'widow of'.

If you cannot take the students to a cemetery, they can try the exercises here which relate to the information about a fictitious Victorian family compiled from the study of several Victorian gravestones.

Younger students

The students can answer these questions. (Answers in brackets).

Answers

1. In what year was Henry Benjamin born? (1843)
2. In what year was Ellen born? (1813)
3. How old was Martha Ann when she died? (45)
4. In what year was Albion born? (1811)
5. In what year was Hannah born? (1835)

Some more able students may like to try the questions for older students.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Perform calculations on data.

Older students

The students could answer the questions for younger students then also answer the following.

Answers

1. Was Albion older than Ellen? Explain your answer. (Yes he was born in 1811 and Ellen was born in 1813. Albion was two years older than her.)
2. Who was the first born child of Albion and Ellen? (Hannah)
3. Who was the second born child of Albion and Ellen? (Martha)
4. Produce a family tree from the information on the gravestone (A family tree with Albion and Ellen and then below them from left to right Hannah, Martha and Henry. Include all dates of birth and death.)
5. How old was Ellen when she had her first child? (22)
6. How old were Henry's sisters when he was born? (Hannah was 8 and Martha was 5.)
7. How old was Albion when his son died? (39)
8. Which member of the family did not die in Victorian times? Explain your answer. (Hannah. Queen Victoria died in 1901 and Hannah died fifteen years later in 1916.)

Outcomes

The students can:

- Perform calculations.
- Construct a simple family tree from data.
- Know the time of the end of the Victorian era.