

# Roslyn Cemetery

## Lesson Six – Grades Four & Seven

### Visiting Roslyn's Cemeteries



RCBA  
ROSLYN CEMETERY  
BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION



SUNCADIA®  
Community Associations

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Below you will find suggested activities for a field trip to Roslyn. These activities may need to be adapted to fit your group size, tour time, academic level, or specific educational objective.

Several local community organizations may be able to assist you in planning for a cemetery visit or tour. Appropriate names and contact information are provided.

Please prepare students and chaperones to treat the Roslyn Cemetery with respect and care. Clarify unacceptable behavior such as stepping on graves, running through plots, breaking artifacts, sitting or leaning on markers, and littering.

## **Cemetery Activities:**

### **Cemetery Kiosk and Headstone Activity:**

Prior to the field trip, place students in small groups and give each group an opportunity to navigate the various pages of the cemetery kiosk website:

<https://roslyn.akiosks.com/>

Tell the group to choose a name from one of the cemeteries. During the field trip, their job will be to find this person's grave and complete several tasks related to it. Pass out the assignment description (below) and have students complete the top portion. Collect the documents for students to finish onsite.

Copy and distribute a guide sheet of common memorial symbols from a web resource such as:

<https://wolfememorial.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/GRAVESTONE-SYMBOLS-and-THEIR-MEANINGS.pdf>

### **Creating a historic walking tour through the Roslyn Cemeteries:**

To demonstrate understanding of themes represented in the cemetery curriculum students can develop their own historical walking tour of the cemetery. This activity could be done individually or in small groups. Teachers can choose to focus on one of the themes from the curriculum or encourage students to create their own central theme for their tour. Students can come up with an objective for the tour that details what they would like their tour participants to learn. The tour will consist of five to eight stops. Each stop should include interesting facts, and a connection to the core narrative of the tour. (see "Create a Historic Walking Tour" below)

### **Cemetery Research Hunt:**

In this activity students use the worksheet (below) to locate and explore various aspects of the cemetery while making notes on key features.

### **Additional Note-Taking Activities:**

While students are in the cemetery, they can be encouraged to record their thoughts in a journal, taking notes on topics such as: describing the cemetery, how it feels to be there, writing notes for a story about a family that is represented in the cemetery, writing notes about an individual headstone that could later be turned into a story or report.

## Cemetery Kiosk and Headstone Activity

Directions: In small groups, review the kiosk website and select a name from one of the cemeteries.

Prior to the field trip:

1. Name	
2. Cemetery where grave is located	
3. Row and plot number	
4. Birth and death dates, if available	
5. Interesting facts about this person	

Tasks to complete onsite:

1. Locate the grave using the map at the kiosk
2. Once you have found the grave, make a sketch of the headstone in the box below. Also make a sketch of the symbols you see on the grave and describe their meaning.

<p>Headstone sketch</p>	<p>Symbols on headstone:</p>
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## Creating a historic walking tour through the Roslyn Cemeteries

Create a walking tour of the Roslyn Historic Cemeteries, focusing on a central theme. Write your tour's theme here:

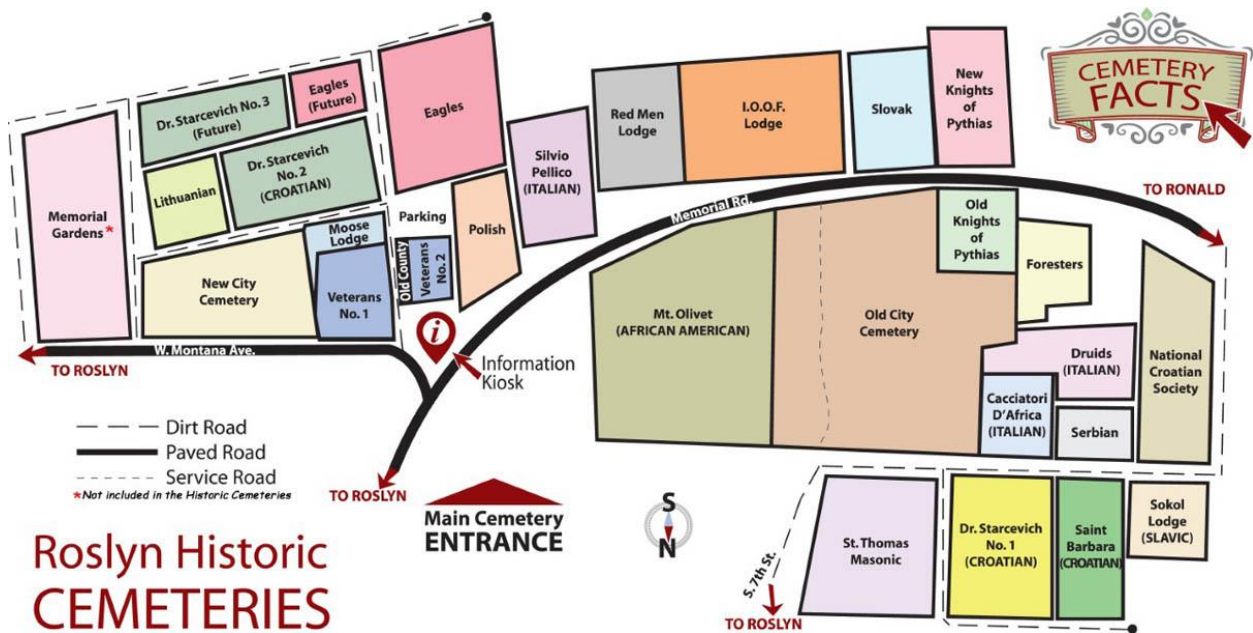
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Your tour should have a central learning objective, what should people know after they have gone on your tour? Write your learning objective here:

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You should include between 5 and 8 different stops on your tour. Each station (stop on the tour) should have some information of interest that relates to your theme and helps your participants understand more about your central learning objective.

Mark the stops on the map and then write a corresponding description on the following pages for each stop.



*Identify your stops, locations and write your descriptions below:*

Stop #	Location in the Cemeteries	Description of key points of interest at this stop
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

7		
8		

## Roslyn Historic Cemeteries Research Hunt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class/Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

General Notes and Reflections on the Cemeteries and their History:

***Answer as many of these questions as you can during your walk around the cemeteries:***

1. What is the official name of the cemetery? Describe the sign or monument that has the name of the cemetery on it. Does the sign/monument tell you when the cemetery was established? If so, write the year down here \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. Look for a tombstone that was dated on or near to the year that coal was discovered in the Roslyn area, 1886. Write down any information you can see about that person in this space.
  
3. Find a tombstone of someone who was in the military. How can you tell that he/she was in the military? What was his/her name and date of death? Can you determine which war this person died in or served in by the dates on his/her tombstone?



4. Find a tombstone of a child. How do you know it is that of a child? How old was the child? Can you tell how he/she died? What does the artwork or the tombstone design tell you about the child or the parents of the child – were they wealthy or poor? How can you tell?
  
5. What is the oldest tombstone that you located? Describe what you know about the person by his/her tombstone.
  
6. Record the details of the most interesting tombstone (design or epitaph) that you have found.
  
7. Did you find any family grave sites? Make notes about the family. How many members of the family were buried there? Was there any connection between any of the deaths?
  
8. What can you determine about the separate sections of the cemetery for those of different religions, nationalities, race? Describe what you have found.
  
9. Can you tell anything about the community or the neighborhood by investigating the tombstones of those who were buried in this cemetery?
  
10. Did you find any signs of vandalism in the cemetery?

*What are the most interesting things that you noticed and what questions do you have after your visit?*

### **Roslyn Activities:**

**Visit the [Roslyn Historical Museum](#):** The class may visit the Roslyn Historical Museum, which is located a short walk from the cemetery. The museum website provides hours and an online form for scheduling group visits. The website also includes a “scavenger hunt” activity which teachers can use to structure their visit.

**Visit the Coal Miner’s Memorial:** To extend student learning about the history of coal mining and the mine explosion of 1892, the class can also visit the Coal Miners Memorial in Roslyn and read the names of miners who perished in mining-related accidents. For more information, search online for <***Roslyn Coal Miner Memorial***>.

**Nature Journaling:** To extend student learning about the geography and environment of the area, students can create and illustrate a nature journal as they move through Roslyn. They can observe the habitat, organisms, plants, animals, etc. by making sketches of what they notice. Teachers can use a premade journal template by searching online for <***Nature Journal***> or can engage students in creating their own nature journal template prior to the trip.