COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

activity book

discover | learn | remember
Over 100 years ago, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission first began its work. During the First World War, we began to care for the graves and memorials of those who had died in the war. Today, over a century later, our work continues. Our staff, supporters and volunteers look after those graves and memorials and share the stories of those who died in the First and Second World Wars.

This booklet is full of fun activities for young explorers, writers, and artists. Get inspired by visiting a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery or memorial to discover more about the work that we do, to learn about those who are buried or commemorated there and to help us ensure that they are always remembered.

We want to involve the whole community with our work – through education, volunteering activity, arts and heritage projects. We aim to increase awareness of CWGC sites across the UK and encourage you to discover more about your local connections with the world wars.

Thank you,

CWGC

#ShareYourTribute
A headstone marks the final resting place of someone who has died.

Each headstone has information about who is buried in that grave.

Find a CWGC headstone and copy the details here.
When you visit war graves, cemeteries or memorials you can discover a lot about the people who died.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission looks after the graves and memorials for all those from Britain and the Commonwealth who died in the First and Second World War.

See how many of the following things you can discover when visiting one of our sites.

1. **A CWGC headstone**
   Did you know... that Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium is the biggest CWGC cemetery in the world and has 12,000 headstones?
   How many did you find?

2. **A rose growing by a headstone**
   Did you know... that CWGC has its own rose called ‘Remembrance’?
   What colour were the roses?

3. **Someone from the Commonwealth**
   Did you know... that we are funded by six different Commonwealth governments?
   What country are they from?

4. **A cap badge with an animal on it**
   Did you know... that a skilled stone mason could engrave three badges a day?
   What animal did you find?
A car or van with the CWGC logo on it
Did you know... that the CWGC works in more than 150 countries?
Tick when you see a CWGC car or van

Someone who served in the Royal Air Force
Did you know... that RAF graves include the job they had?
What job did they have?

The Cross of Sacrifice
Did you know... that there are four different sizes of cross?
Tick when you find the cross

Someone who served in the Army
Did you know... that people from all over the world served in the British Army during the world wars?
Write their name here

A cap badge with a flower on it
Did you know... that all new headstones are engraved at our workshops in France?
What flower did you find?

A CWGC memorial
Did you know... that not everyone had a grave? Some are remembered on memorials.
Tick when you visit a CWGC memorial
Did you know?

Serving at sea was very dangerous during the World Wars and more than 100,000 Royal Navy sailors died. Most have no known grave and are commemorated on memorials like the Chatham Naval Memorial.
Solve the maze

Can you help the CWGC gardener find his way through the maze?

Fact: We cut more than 98 million square metres of grass in our cemeteries in France and Belgium every year!
Can you find these words? Don’t forget they may be written forwards, backwards or diagonally!

1. Cemetery
2. Memorial
3. Remembrance
4. Cross
5. Gardener
6. Soldier
7. Sailor
8. Airman
9. Headstone
10. Tribute
11. Unknown
12. Service
13. Flower
14. Last Post
15. Lawnmower

FACT: CWGC have over 100 skilled staff who care for war graves in the UK alone.
Draw the Runnymede Memorial then colour it!

This is the Runnymede Memorial where we remember airmen and women of the Royal Air Force who died during the Second World War.

Use the grid to help you draw the other half of the memorial.

Did you know?

The Runnymede Memorial was unveiled by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The memorial commemorates over 20,000 men and women who have no known grave.
Can you label these 10 special features found in some of our cemeteries and memorials in Great Britain?

1. Cross of Sacrifice
2. Stone of Remembrance
3. Golden Ship
4. Names of the fallen
5. Unicorn
6. Saluting the fallen
7. An unknown soldier
8. Statue of a sailor
9. Lion
10. Globe

ANSWERS
Fact: The CWGC commemorates more than 1.7 million servicemen and women!
Spot the difference

Can you spot what is different between these pictures of the Runnymede Memorial? Put a X where the differences are.

Fact: There are people from at least 18 different countries remembered on the Runnymede Memorial!
There are six differences in this picture.
Use this space to write about your visit to a CWGC grave or memorial.

What did you see? What did you learn?

Who was the youngest person buried in the cemetery?

Did you see a gardener? What were they doing?
Draw a picture of the grave or memorial that you visited (and tell us why you liked it!)
We honour and care for the men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten. Funded by six Member Governments, our work began with building, and now maintaining, cemeteries at 23,000 locations all over the world.

Today, over a century after we first began, our work continues through our staff, supporters and volunteers who preserve our unique cultural, horticultural and architectural heritage and ensure that the stories of those who died are told.

VOLUNTEER WITH US
Find out more at: www.cwgc.org/our-work/volunteer/

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