

Year 5 or 6 Lesson: Victorian Mausoleums

Curriculum Links

KS2 History: Significant individuals

Art/DT: Design and symbolism

SMSC: Beliefs about death and remembrance

Learning Objectives

Understand what a mausoleum is

Explain why the Burtons' tomb is unusual

Explore how objects can tell stories

Lesson Plan (60 mins)

Starter (10 mins)

Image reveal (burial sites) Show:

- Pyramid
- Grave
- Mausoleum

Ask: "Why do people build special places for the dead?"

Main Activity 1 (15 mins)

Watch episode clips

Students identify:

- What shape is the mausoleum?
- Why a tent
- What objects/symbols are inside?

Teacher explains:

- Inspired by desert travels
- Built so Isabel could visit and remember him

Main Activity 2 (20 mins)

Design Your Own Mausoleum Students create:

- Shape (tent, castle, etc.)
- Symbols (religion, hobbies)
- Labels explaining meaning

The Burtons: Fascinating in Life and Death, Episode III, The Burton Mausoleum

Discussion (10 mins)

- What does the mausoleum tell us about Burton's life?
- Why do people want to be remembered?

Plenary (5 mins)

"One symbol I used was... because..."



Year 10 or 11 Lesson: Mausoleum's Make Memory

Curriculum Links

- GCSE History: Empire / cultural interaction
- Themes: Representation, belief, identity

Learning Objectives

- Explain the significance of the mausoleum
- Analyse how identity is represented through architecture
- Evaluate how people are remembered

Lesson Plane (60 mins)

Starter (10 mins)

Question: "How should important people be remembered?"

Students rank:

- Statues
- Museums
- Tombs

Main Activity 1 (15 mins)

Video analysis

Students identify:

- Cultural influences (Middle East, Christianity)
- Design purpose
- Personal meaning (Isabel's role)

Main Activity 2 (20 mins)

Symbol Analysis Task

Students analyse:

- Tent shape → travel & exploration
- Cross + crescent → religious identity
- Location → British identity

Main Activity 3 (10 mins)

Short written response "Explain how the Burton Mausoleum reflects Richard Burton's life"

Plenary (5 mins)

"Is the mausoleum more about Richard or Isabel?"

The Burtons: Fascinating in Life and Death, Episode III, The Burton Mausoleum

Differentiation

- Sentence scaffolds
- Stretch: compare to other monuments



Year 12 or 13 Lesson: 'The Dead Do Not Bury Themselves'

Curriculum Links

- A-Level History: Memory studies, empire, identity
- Themes: Commemoration, narrative control

Learning Objectives

- Critically analyse monuments as historical sources
- Evaluate how memory is constructed
- Assess competing interpretations of legacy

Lesson Plan (90 mins)

Starter (10 mins)

Provocation: "Monuments tell us more about the people who built them than those they commemorate", hence the popular phrase amongst conservators of mausoleums: 'The dead do not bury themselves'.

Main Activity 1 (20 mins)

Advanced video critique Students identify:

- Narrative tone
- Whose perspective is presented
- Omissions (e.g., colonised voices)

Main Activity 2 (25 mins)

Thematic analysis

Theme	Focus
Architecture	Tent → mobility, identity
Religion	Mixed symbols → cultural hybridity
Power	Who controls legacy?
Gender	Isabel as designer and curator

Main Activity 3 (20 mins)

Seminar debate

- Is the mausoleum a celebration or reinterpretation of Burton?
- Does it romanticise empire?



The Burtons: Fascinating in Life and Death, Episode III, The Burton Mausoleum

- How does it reflect Victorian attitudes to death?

Plenary Essay (15 mins)

“How far does the Burton Mausoleum construct, rather than reflect, Richard Burton’s legacy?”

Differentiation

- Reading extracts for depth
- Essay scaffolds where needed