GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY
PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET

Student Name
INTRODUCTORY READING

Adaptation

Green-Wood Cemetery is a 478 acre cemetery and crematory in Brooklyn, occupying a site overlooking New York Harbor. It was established in 1838 by prominent New Yorkers who saw a need for burial space outside of overcrowded Manhattan churchyards. The original design was by David Bates Douglass, who was also responsible for the Croton Aqueduct with strong assistance from Almerin Hotchkiss, who later designed Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis and Chippiaannock Cemetery in Rock Island, IL. Modeled after Pére Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, Green-Wood was designed as a rural retreat where visitors could escape the difficulties of urban living. In an 1849 essay Andrew Jackson Downing wrote that, of America's rural cemeteries, Green-Wood was “the largest and unquestionably the finest ... grand, dignified and park-like.” Green-Wood became fashionable after the body of DeWitt Clinton was moved there from Albany and a large bronze memorial by sculpture Henry Kirke Brown was commissioned. The natural beauty of the cemetery, its design, its elaborate monuments, and the prominence of those buried there soon made Green-Wood a popular tourist destination. Its success inspired a competition to design a “Central Park” for New York City, with Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted submitting the winning plan.

In 2006 Green-Wood was designated a National Historic Landmark. Its Gothic Revival entrance (1861) at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street, designed by Richard Upjohn and Sons, is a New York City landmark. Green-Wood contains nearly 7000 trees, including many rare specimens. Among its nearly 600,000 permanent residents are political leaders Seth Low and William M. Tweed; inventors Peter Cooper, Elias Howe, and Samuel F.B. Morse; artists Asher B. Durand, William Merritt Chase, George Catlin, John Kensett, George Bellows, Eastman Johnson, John George Brown, Philip Evergood, and Jean-Michel Basquiat; stained glass competitors Louis Comfort Tiffany and John La Farge; composers Leonard Bernstein, Fred Ebb, and Louis Moreau Gottschalk; newspaper publisher Horace Greeley and James Gordon Bennett; actors Frank Morgan (The Wizard of Oz) and Laura Keene; abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher; lithographers Nathaniel Currier and James Merritt Ives (the men behind the firm Currie and Ives); many Civil War generals, including Henry W. Halleck and Henry W. Slocum; and more than 3000 Civil War veterans.

Document 1 - Entrance to Greenwood Cemetery. ca 1900. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.
1. Describe what the image in DOCUMENT 1 depicts. Where is it located?

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

2. Why do you think that Green-Wood cemetery built an entrance like this? What does it remind you of?

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

3. Why do you believe this postcard of Green-Wood Cemetery was made? Why would people buy and mail it?

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

4. In the early days of the cemetery, it was used as a park as well. Why do you think this was the case?

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

**Document 1 - Entrance to Greenwood Cemetery, ca 1900. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.**
I must now give a brief account of Greenwood Cemetery, which we visited the other day in company with Mr. and Miss Grinnell, who obligingly insisted on taking us there, and showing us the place. It is in the south part of Brooklyn, about three miles from Fulton Ferry (you may also go to Greenwood by the new ferry, at Whitehall, which lands you in the vicinity of the cemetery on a very long pier). Greenwood contains two hundred and forty-two acres, of which a great part is beautifully covered with woods of a natural growth; and I think the surprisingly brilliant colors of autumn are more striking and exquisite here than those at Staten Island, or New Haven, or in the country before we came to New York. These were perfectly extraordinary—the most dazzling scarlet, the most golden and vivid yellows and Tyrian purples, and rich, deep, velvet-like crimsons, and delicate pale primrose-tints, and soft surviving greens, and rose-buds, such as flush the lips of Indian shells—all cast their sumptuous shadowings over the quiet graves, like the reflections from richly-painted windows, "blushing with the blood of kings and queens," in some mighty old cathedral. The views from the heights of the cemetery were sublime. I admired the one from Ocean Hill the most. There is a lovely variety of valleys, elevations, plains, groves, and glades, and paths. When will London have anything even approaching to this magnificent cemetery? The ocean rolling and moaning, with its fine melancholy, organ-like sounds, so near, like a mighty mourner, she cannot have, nor the gorgeous pall cast over the tombs by a Western autumn; but all the rest she could have, and yet has not.

The cemetery is traversed by many winding paths and avenues, all beautiful and solemn. Some of the monuments are interesting. There is one to an Iowa Indian Princess, named Dohunme; another handsome one to a young lady who was killed while returning from a ball. There is one thing which I did not quite like, and yet it is not only useful, but necessary, and that is, having "Guide Boards" given to visitors, to direct them in these solemn labyrinths. We were told that, but for this precaution, many persons would probably lose themselves in the Cemetery; still, there is something not in keeping with all the rest in these melancholy, methodical maps; but that is only fanciful.

Adaptation

I must now give a brief account of Greenwood Cemetery, which we visited the other day in company with Mr. and Miss Grinnell, who obligingly insisted on taking us there, and showing us the place. It is in the south part of Brooklyn, about three miles from Fulton Ferry (you may also go to Greenwood by the new ferry, at Whitehall, which lands you in the vicinity of the cemetery on a very long pier).

Greenwood contains two hundred and forty-two acres, of which a great part is beautifully covered with woods of a natural growth; and I think the surprisingly brilliant colors of autumn are more striking and exquisite here than those at Staten Island, or New Haven or in the country before we came to New York.

The views from the heights of the cemetery were sublime. I admired the one from Ocean Hill the most. There is a lovely variety of valleys, elevations, plains, groves, and glades, and paths. When will London have anything even approaching to this magnificent cemetery?

The cemetery is traversed by many winding paths and avenues, all beautiful and solemn. Some of the monuments are interesting.

There is one thing which I did not quite like, and yet it is not only useful, but necessary, and that is, having "Guide Boards" given to visitors, to direct them in these solemn labyrinths. We were told that, but for this precaution, many persons would probably lose themselves in the Cemetery.
1. According to DOCUMENT 2, where is Green-Wood Cemetery located?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

2. How does the author of DOCUMENT 2 describe Green-Wood Cemetery?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

3. Explain in your own words why the author loved visiting Green-Wood Cemetery.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

4. Does this text convince you to visit Green-Wood Cemetery? Why or why not?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

THE DEATH OF YOUNG MCKENZIE.

Capt. Balsdon arrived here last evening with the body of Clarence D. McKenzie, drummer of Company D, 13th regiment, and gives the following particulars in regard to the manner of his death: It appears he was sitting on the floor with his back to the wall, playing with his brother, and one of the members of Company B was practising the manual of arms, when in the motion of the charge bayonets, the hammer must have caught in his belt, and the piece went off, the ball striking the floor about two feet from the wall, entered the wall, and bounding back, entered his back and passed right through his body, burying itself in a blanket at his feet. No blame can be attached to the man who shot him individually, as he was perfectly ignorant of the piece being loaded. The members of Company D, at home and the 13th regiment home guard are requested to attend his funeral from the house, 23 Liberty street, on Friday afternoon at 3 o’clock. The members of Engine Co. No. 6 and Hose Co. No. 7 are also requested to attend by his parents.

Transcription

THE DEATH OF YOUNG MCKENZIE

Capt. Balsdon arrived here last evening with the body of Clarence D. McKenzie, drummer of Company D, 13th regiment, and gives the following particulars in regard to the manner of his death: It appears he was sitting on the floor with his back to the wall, playing with his brother, and one of the members of Company B was practising the manual of arms, when in the motion of the charge bayonets, the hammer must have caught in his belt, and the piece went off, the ball striking the floor about two feet from the wall, entered his back and passed right through his body burying itself in a blanket at his feet. No blame can be attached to the man who shot him individually, as he was perfectly ignorant of the piece being loaded. The members of Company D, at home and the 13th regiment home guard are requested to attend his funeral from the house, 23 Liberty street, on Friday afternoon at 3 o’clock. The members of Engine Co. No. 6 and Hose Co. No. 7 are also requested to attend by his parents.

DOCUMENT 3B - "War Intelligence, The Death of Young McKenzie." Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 13 June 1861.
1. Describe what you see in DOCUMENT 3A.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. According to DOCUMENT 3B, what happened to Clarence McKenzie? Describe the events that led to his death.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Why do you think young children were allowed to be drummer boys?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. Clarence was 12 when he went to war; would you have gone to fight in the war? Why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________


DOCUMENT 3B - “War Intelligence, The Death of Young McKenzie.” *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 13 June 1861.
THE SOLDIERS’ MONUMENT

THE DEDICATION AND DECORATION OF THE MONUMENT IN GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY.

Several thousand people assembled in Green-Wood Cemetery yesterday to witness the decoration of the Soldiers’ Monument. The work on this monument was begun about ten years ago, and it was not finished until last November. The Legislature authorized by special act the payment of $15,000 for its erection, and the money was paid out of the New York City Treasury. It has never been formally dedicated, and the services yesterday were partly of a dedicatory character. The monument is of granite, and is very handsome. A Corinthian column of polished stone with sculptured wreaths of laurel rises from a square pedestal, at the four corners of which stand four life-size and life-like bronze figures of soldiers in the uniform of the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and sappers and miners’ branches of the service. Scenes in the life of a Union soldier, in bronze, in relief, are set in the pedestal, and there are also four tablets bearing the following inscriptions:

"Erected Anno Domini 1869."

"The City of New York dedicates this monument to its heroic dead."

"The City of New York enlisted 148,000 soldiers in aid of the war for the preservation of the Union and Constitution, A.D. 1861. A.D. 1865."

"Ever remember how much of national prosperity is due to the brave exertions of the soldiers who died in the service of their country."

"Erected Anno Domini 1869"

"The City of New York dedicates this monument to its heroic dead."

"The City of New York enlisted 148,000 soldiers in aid of the war for the preservation of the Union and Constitution A.D. 1861 A.D. 1866"

"Ever remember how much of national prosperity is due to the brave exertions of the brave exertions of the soldiers who died in the service of their country."

1. What is the solders’ monument? Where is it located?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. How much did the monument cost? Who paid for the monument?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. Why was the monument built?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. What is inscribed on the monument? What do the inscriptions mean?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

1. What was the purpose of DOCUMENT 5?


2. Why might someone choose to take a tour of Green-Wood Cemetery?


3. Green-Wood Cemetery was so popular during this time period that the cemetery hired a security team to separate the mourners from the tourists. Imagine you’re a tourist and you see mourners while on your tour. Describe your feelings.


4. What if you were a mourner and you saw tourists riding by? Describe your feelings.


5. Do you think that people still find cemeteries interesting today? Why or why not?


Most Modern of Crematories Being Built at Green-Wood

The world’s most modern crematory, the first to be built in New York City in the last 50 years, is now under construction in historic Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, it was announced yesterday by A. Wallace Chauncey, president of Green-Wood Cemetery Corporation.

Set in specially landscaped surroundings, the structure, which will be of functional design, is built on a site close to the Gothic-styled main entrance of the cemetery at 25th Street and 5th Ave.

Designed by architect Eldredge Snyder of 101 Park Ave., Manhattan, the building will consist of one story and a basement, 120 feet in length and 75 feet in width, its exterior facing will be of Indiana limestone trimmed in Vermont marble. Builders are Irons and Reynolds of 420 Lexington Ave., Manhattan.

The building will house five cremation units of the most advanced type. Other facilities will include a room for committal services, a columbarium for the storage of urns, an urn garden and a spacious cryptorium.

Founded in 1838 as a non-sectarian, non-profit “rural” burial ground, Green-Wood Cemetery is the final resting place of many of the nation’s historic dead. In its broad acreage are also buried combat heroes of every major war in which the United States has been engaged including the Revolutionary War.

Long recognized as among the nation’s most beautifully landscaped cemeteries, Green-Wood has more than 30,000 large trees and innumerable arrangements of flowering shrubs. Forty miles of paved footpaths and 22 miles of roadway wind through the cemetery’s green expanse.

1. Burial practices in America changed drastically since Green-Wood was created in 1838. Summarize the article in three to four sentences.

2. What are two pieces of new information about Green-Wood cemetery did you learn from this article?

3. What new information did you learn about the plants and trees of Green-Wood cemetery?

Brooklyn: Cemetery Is Designated a Landmark

By GLENN COLLINS OCT. 2, 2006

Green-Wood Cemetery has been designated a national historic landmark by the United States Department of the Interior. The designation, announced on Thursday, made the 478-acre cemetery the ninth such landmark in Brooklyn, according to the National Register of Historic Places. “It is gratifying that we are the first cemetery so honored in New York State,” said Richard J. Moylan, the cemetery’s president. The property, established in 1838, “is outstanding for its cohesive, picturesque character, integrated Gothic Revival architecture, and high integrity,” said the secretary of the interior, Dirk Kempthorne. Nearly 600,000 people have been buried at Green-Wood, an active cemetery that is the resting place of Boss Tweed, Leonard Bernstein and the original Brooks Brothers. Mr. Moylan said the designation could be useful in efforts to preserve the view, which has been threatened by high-rise development, of the Statue of Liberty from the cemetery’s hilltop statue of Minerva. “We can now make the case,” Mr. Moylan said, “that the view is landmark to landmark.”

A version of this brief appears in print on , on Page B4 of the New York edition with the headline: BROOKLYN: CEMETERY IS DESIGNATED A LANDMARK.
1. What government organization makes the decision to designate something a National Historic Landmark?

2. What reasons does the article give to justify its landmark designation?

3. When a building is landmarked it becomes safe from destruction. Why is it important to landmark historic places?

1. List the names of FOUR streets that border Green-Wood Cemetery:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. According to DOCUMENT 9, who was George Tilyou? Circle where he’s buried on the map.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Which individual buried at Green-Wood Cemetery witnessed Abraham Lincoln’s assassination? What was her job?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

SYNTHESIS QUESTION:
Use the information gathered from the primary source documents in this packet to write a letter describing a visit to Green-Wood Cemetery. Pick a year of your choosing (i.e. 1880, 1900, 1925 ... 2015, etc.) and reflect on what you know about Green-Wood at that time.

Date: _______________________

Dear ________________________,

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Sincerely,

_____________________________________________________________________

Green-Wood Cemetery Primary Source Packet 20