

# Lesson Ideas

## Coffins & Customs

When a death occurs within a school community it may be the first experience of death for many pupils. In multi-ethnic areas it will also highlight the different cultural and religious practises that exist around the world. This may lead to many questions from pupils.

Begin by asking pupils to share any experiences they have had of funerals and customs surrounding burial and remembrance. Also ask if they are aware of any other practises around the world.

## Main Activity:

Split the class into groups and assign each group to a different religion, culture, custom or country. Ask them to research what followers of that religion/culture/custom/nationality believe about death, the afterlife and the way in which they conduct a funeral and the grieving period.

Each group is to present back to the rest of the class a summary of what they have found, detailing how it is similar and how it is different to experiences shared at the start of the class.

Pupils should be aware of the various faiths and beliefs held by members of the class and understand how they might help an individual who holds those beliefs.

## Plenary:

It is important that students are aware of the many different practices, beliefs and customs that exist around the world, and that they grow to become tolerant of each of them. They should also begin to understand the reasons for these practices and realise how they might aid a grieving family.

## National Curriculum Requirements:

(Citizenship) 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3c