

Date: _____

Cemetery Location: _____

In this activity, you will investigate the effects of weathering on tombstones.

1. Walk through the cemetery and observe the extent of weathering on the gravestones. 2. Choose 4 tombstones that vary in condition from un-weathered to extremely weathered. For each tombstone, record the following information in the provided chart:

a. Identify the extent of weathering on the tombstone(s) you observed:

1. Unweathered
2. Slightly Weathered - faint rounding of corner of letters.
3. Moderately Weathered - rough surfaces, letters still legible.
4. Badly Weathered - letters are difficult to read.
5. Very Badly Weathered - letters almost indistinguishable.
6. Extremely Weathered - no letters left, scaling.

b. Note which areas are weathered. Sketch a few representative letters to illustrate the extent of weathering and take a photo (ideally be in at least one!)

c. Identify the rock type and color.

d. If lichens are present, examine them closely. What type are they? Do they grow on the sheltered sides of the tombstone or on all sides? What is the effect of biological weathering?

e. Calculate the age of the tombstone.

f. Mark each of your four tombstone locations on the cemetery map.

2. Does stone orientation to the wind also have an impact on the extent of weathering? Explain.

3. Find the oldest gravestone in the cemetery. Describe the extent of weathering and the type of rock used.

TOMBSTONE #___:

Tombstone Age:

Rahn's Index:

Rock type and color:

Lichens: Present or Absent?

Lichen description (if present)

Description of weathering

Sketch or digital photograph of tombstone