Michelle Griesemer

Burial Ground

NYS LEARNING STANDARD
- Social Studies: standard 1—History of the United States and New York
- Mathematics, Science and Technology: standards1, 3, & 6—Analysis, Inquiry, and Design; Mathematics; Interconnectedness: Common Themes

GRADE LEVEL: 7th, adaptable up to 9th

MATERIALS
- Paper
- Pencils
- Calculator

LEARNING STYLES
- Logical/mathematical
- Bodily/kinesthetic
- Visual/spatial

OBJECTIVE
- To discover the average ages of the deceased people from Huguenot Street by calculating each of their ages and then finding an average age.
- To encourage students to be detectives about the residents' lives and look critically at the burial ground for clues
- To present history in an interdisciplinary context.

PROCEDURE
1. Pre-field trip: students will be reminded how to calculate the average of a data set and broken up into groups of 3-4.
2. During the trip: each student will be assigned a role (recorder, materials, reporter, and motivator).
3. Students will start at one gravestone and calculate the age the person was deceased in 5 minutes.
4. Each group will rotate around the burial ground and look at each gravestone to find the age the person was deceased.
5. After the students have calculated the ages, they will sit down and find the average age of death during the 1700's and 1800's.
6. Students can also perform an analysis of the gravestones to answer the following questions:
   - what dates are on them
   - is there a larger number of deceased people for a certain year
   - are there more men than women
   - what the causes of death are/are they similar to now
   - what tombstones read on their inscriptions [religious or secular in nature]

- any other questions the teacher finds appropriate
7. The reporter of the group will then explain the class his or her group's findings and how they came to their answer.

EVALUATION
The students will be assessed informally through class discussion, by handing in their calculations to evaluate student comprehension of averaging, and the content of their presentations.