

## Design a headstone

This worksheet encourages detailed study of the style and significance of decoration on a Jewish headstone. Comparisons can be made with Christian headstones to explore the symbolism of various decorative carvings (see RE worksheets).

Teachers notes:

1. On the website ([www.jewish-gilroes.org.uk](http://www.jewish-gilroes.org.uk)) select the tab at the top labelled *History* and select *Embellishments*. This page shows some examples of the types of decoration used on headstones in the Jewish section at Gilroes, with some explanations.
2. Using the *Search* tab, show some typical headstones by entering these names:
  - Toby Theresa Bagel (1906, tree and axe)
  - Esther Hannah Millett (1920, ivy branches and elaborate stone outline)
  - Millie Dove (1925, badge, foliage and varied text)
  - Harris Davis (1931, flowers) – also ribbons on Maurice Rosen’s stone in the background
  - Jacob May (1935, clasped hands, foliage, scrolls, flowers)
  - Jackson Cemmell (1936, red granite, Star of David, initials)
  - Annie Cohen (1937, Star of David, book, extra words)
  - Lionel Henry Cohen (1940, tree stump)
  - Harry Peterkosky (1941, military crest, Star of David)
  - Lazarus Halperin (1942, black background with gold decoration)

Use *Click for large image* to show more detail.

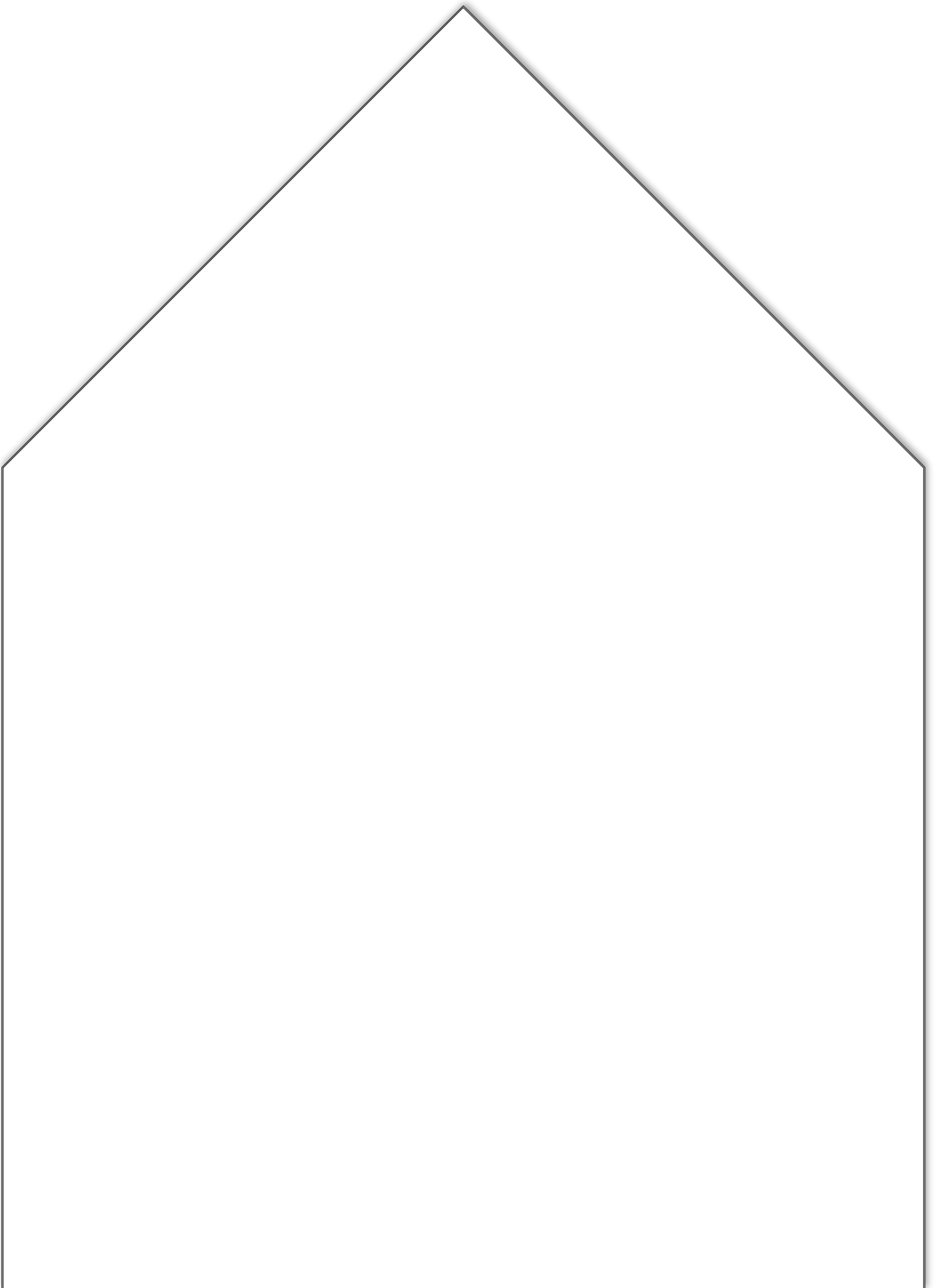
3. Look at:
  - What information is included? (name, dob,dod, age, relatives, verse)
  - Is all the writing the same size and font?
  - Are all the stones the same material?
  - What different languages are there?
  - Do all the stones have the same outline? (no cross shapes)
  - What is not used? (angels, photos)

If required, the children can fill in the question sheet.

4. Choosing a famous person they have studied (Boudicca, Winston Churchill, Neil Armstrong), can they design an appropriate headstone? What information should be included? What shape might it be? What decorative detail could be added?

<p>What information is given on the stone?</p>	
<p>What different sizes and fonts can you see? (Draw them.)</p>	
<p>What different outline shapes can you see?</p>	
<p>Describe what decorations were used on the early Jewish headstones.</p>	
<p>What would you <u>not</u> expect to find on a Jewish headstone?</p>	

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