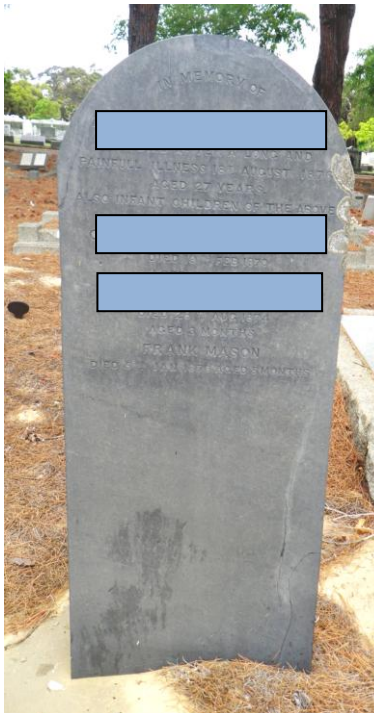


Grave Concern – Student Activity

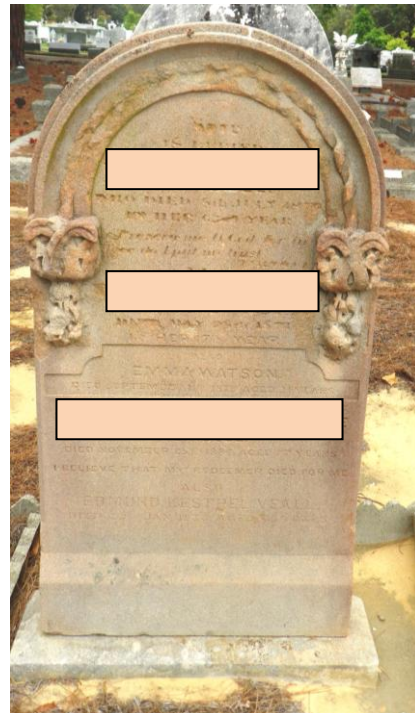
Gravestones have to be beautiful and yet soft enough to carve inscriptions into them. They also have to be able to withstand weathering. These three gravestones below are from Fremantle Cemetery. I have obscured the names of those interred. All stones three were erected between 1876 and 1889 face the same direction and are in the same part of the graveyard.



Slate



Marble

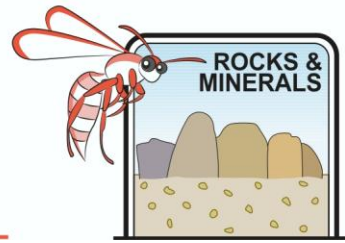


Sandstone

1. How old are these gravestones now? _____

2. Which has stood the test of time best? Explain your answer. _____

3. Why did I make sure all three gravestones are about the same age, are from the same part of the cemetery and are facing in the same direction?



4. What do you think the main agents of weathering in this graveyard were? There are at least three. _____

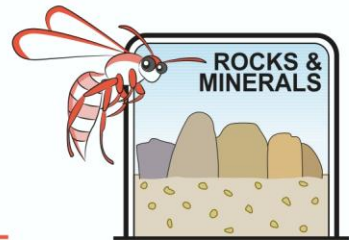
5. Can you tell which gravestone is the oldest? Explain your answer. _____

In the twentieth century diamond coated saws were used to cut and polish gravestones. This meant that very hard rock such as granite could be used. Engraving granite is difficult because it chips easily so monumental masons used softer, but more expensive marble to carve the inscriptions



Marble dedication slabs on granite

In this family grave, which memorial tablet is the oldest? Explain your answer.



In other parts of the world there are different agents of weathering. Use your library or the internet to find out about “The Elgin Marbles”. They were “rescued” from the Parthenon in Greece by Lord Elgin and held by the British Museum. What extra factors were these marble sculptures affected by?

Source _____