

DESIGN A HISTORIC TOMBSTONE

A tombstone is a marker that is placed over a gravesite. An **epitaph** is a short description on a tombstone. An epitaph can be a short poem or description of the deceased person or it can be as simple as the person's dates of birth and death. The common phrase "R.I.P.," which stands for Rest in Peace, is an epitaph. There are many different kinds of epitaphs. Some are serious, such as Jefferson Davis's, which reads: "At Rest, An American Soldier, and Defender of the Constitution." Some epitaphs are poetic, such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's epitaph, which is a verse from his famous book *The Great Gatsby*: "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly, into the past." Some epitaphs are strange, such as, "I told you I was sick." Others are funny, such as this dentist's tombstone that reads, "Stranger! Approach this spot with gravity! John Brown is filling his last cavity."

Use your imagination to design the tombstone below. Use an epitaph. You can also draw carvings (pictures). Look in the *Cemetery Discovery Box* to get more ideas.

