



Celebrating the Dead

1. Before they die, Caviteño people in the Philippines choose the tree in which they want to be buried. Is there a tree that is important to you? **Draw** it, then **explain** why it is special.



Michael Gunther

2. In Ghana, some families choose special coffins, shaped like an object that the dead person loved. What shape would you choose, if this was your tradition? Why?



PICS: Regula Tschumi

Ghanaian carpenters Kudjoe Affutu and Daniel Mensah made these hen- and car-shaped coffins for customers.



3. At New Orleans jazz funerals, people start to dance after the body is buried. How do you think dancing might help people feel better if they are sad?



Cheryl Gerber

"Music here is as much a part of death as it is of life."

—Sidney Bechet, a famous New Orleans jazz musician

4. Why were kids in Victorian times more familiar with death and dying than kids today?

- There were no hospitals.
- Queen Victoria's sadness made everyone aware of death.
- People were much more likely to die at home, surrounded by family.



5. What do Muslims', Christians', and Jews' beliefs about death have in common?

- They believe in reincarnation—that your soul will go into another living thing.
- They believe that people who were good in this life will go to heaven.
- They believe that you should wear black after a loved one has died.