



Celebrating the Dead

1. What is special about the funeral tradition of the Caviteño people of the Philippines?

2. Is there a tree that is important to you? Draw it, then explain why it is special.



Michael Gunther

3. 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?



PGCS: Regula Tschumi

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

4. At some funerals in New Orleans, people start to dance after the body is buried. **What** kind of funerals are they, and **why** do you think they dance?



Cheryl Gerber

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

—Sidney Bechet, a famous New Orleans jazz musician

5. 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.



6. Do you think it's a good thing that kids back then were more familiar with death? Why/why not?

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

