

Proposal to Add Grave Emoji

To: Unicode Consortium

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Abstract

This submission is a request to add a grave/tombstone and to the Unicode emoji set. The tombstone is a common symbols to respect dead relatives and there is no current emoji that conveys such emotion. The author proposes converting U+26FC ☠ (Headstone Graveyard Symbol) to an emoji symbol as it is currently unimplemented across devices.

Introduction

The core of the human experience revolves around birth and death. Since the first human tribes or civilizations were developed these two core facets of human life have been celebrated, feared, and intertwined through religion, cuisine, literature, and many other factors of human civilization. Death is a part of every person's life, and it is only appropriate that we have a character to represent the idea and experience of death.

In addition to the heavy-handed tone, death has also made itself part of pop culture in a jovial fashion such as the phrase "I'm dead" or "I'm dying of laughter". RIP is a common response to such jokes and also a common lament to deaths. "As dead as a doornail", "dead air", "Over my dead body", a multitude of phrases exist using death as a theme.

Names

CLDR short name: grave

CLDR keywords: grave | tombstone | rip

Images



Artwork by Philippe Kimura-Thollander. Licensed for noncommercial use: free to share and use.

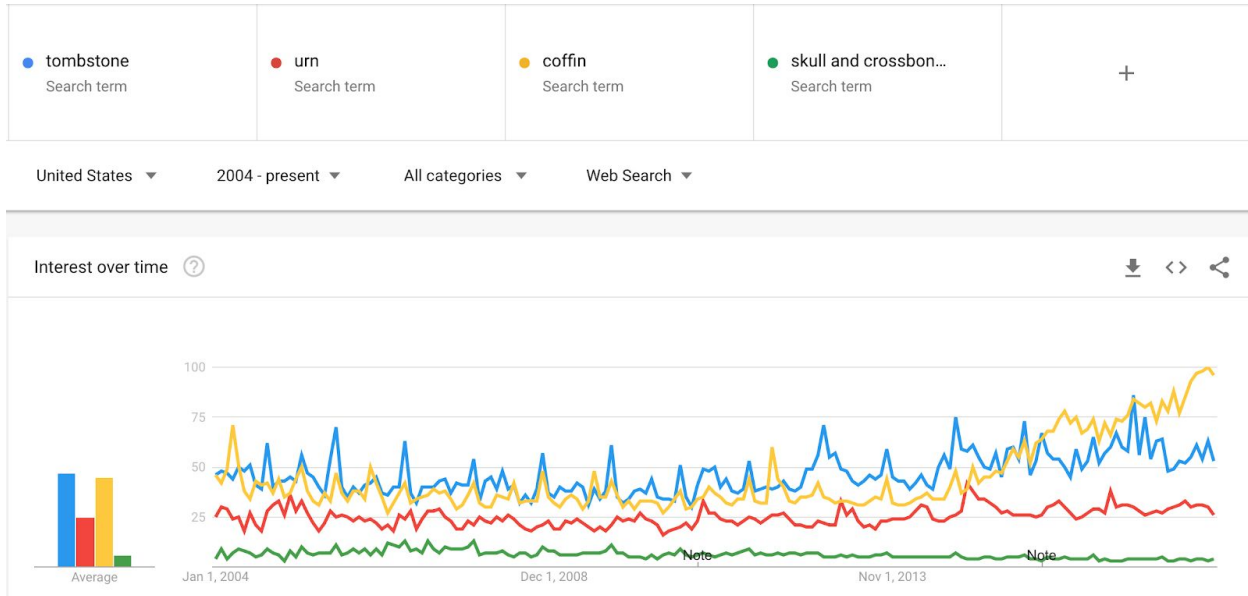
Compatibility

The author is unaware of any grave or incense images used in any major platform (Google, Apple, Snapchat, Facebook). A gravestone emoji provides an opportunity to respectfully represent the dead, and compliment the urn emoji. It is important to note that U+26FC, is supposed to represent a headstone, however no vendor currently implements this symbol and thus it could be converted to an emoji.

Expected Usage

A. Frequency

The expected usage of a grave emoji is high. Compared to its contemporaries, such as coffin, urn, or skull and crossbones, the grave term outranks all but coffin, but only recently, perhaps owing to its creation of being an emoji.



B. Multiple Uses

Graves are referenced in multiple idioms, such as You can “swear on your mother’s grave” to keep a secret, or perhaps “dig you own grave” by making a mistake, and people might be “spinning in their grave” if something happens that is against their beliefs or teachings. And of course, they can represent “Rest in Peace”, the common phrase of respect towards the dead.



Graves can also be used in phrases unrelated to death, such as “It’s a graveyard out here” indicating lack of people, or “graveyard shift” meaning working overnight shifts. Extending the meaning to death opens up many other idioms, like: “As dead as a doornail”, “dead air”, “Over my dead body”, “beat a dead horse”, etc.

C. Use in Sequences

The Grave emoji could be used with 🙏 when a loved one has passed, or with 😄 when joking about something being so funny that you’re dead.

D. Breaking New Ground

No.

Image Distinctiveness

A grave emoji would be visually distinct due to its rounded tombstone shape. The closes emoji in terms of shape might be mailbox, (depending on its depiction), but they are usually shown in a landscape form versus the portrait from a grave has. Although graves are usually just grey, the addition of grass or ground can be more colorful and provide more visual clarity.

Completeness

The grave emoji would help round out the emojis that help convey death and prayer, which include skull, skull and crossbones, urn, hands together, and coffin. These emojis represent death at different stages, and gravestone would help portray the time during which ancestors and ones who have passed away are remembered, respected, and not yet forgotten.

Factors for exclusion

A. Overly Specific

The grave emoji would not be overly specific. Occasionally people will use the skull/coffin or candle emoji to represent the grave or incense respectively, but lament the fact that they cannot accurately portray their meaning.

B. Open Ended

N/A. A grave has no similar representations .

C. Already Representable

The grave emoji cannot be represented with any other current emoji. The Dango emoji assistant¹ (used in the prior Broccoli Emoji Proposal²) suggests 🙌🏠 for grave which is off the mark in terms of tone for grave.

D. Logos, brands, UI icons, etc

The grave emoji is not associated with any brand.

E. Transient

As long humans live, they will die, and we have continued to honor our dead relatives through graves and incense for thousands of years. These practices will not change for the foreseeable future.

F. Faulty Comparison

N/A

G. Exact Images




The proposal does not require an exact image.

¹ <https://getdango.com/>

² <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/16375-broccoli-emoji.pdf>




Evidence of Frequency

A. Google Search




[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [Shopping](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

About 28,900,000 results (0.77 seconds)

[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [Shopping](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)



About 345,000,000 results (0.61 seconds)

[All](#) [Images](#) [Shopping](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)



About 70,000,000 results (0.64 seconds)

B. Bing Search


 

[All](#) [News](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [Shop](#) | [My saves](#)

25,200,000 Results [Any time](#) ▾

[All](#) [News](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [Shop](#) | [My saves](#)

15,100,000 Results [Any time](#) ▾  Near Mamaroneck, NY · [Change](#)



coffin



All

News

Images

Videos

Maps

Shop



My saves

24,300,000 Results

Any time ▾

C. Youtube Search



YouTube

tombstone



Home

About 2,680,000 results



YouTube

rest in peace



Home

About 10,500,000 results



YouTube

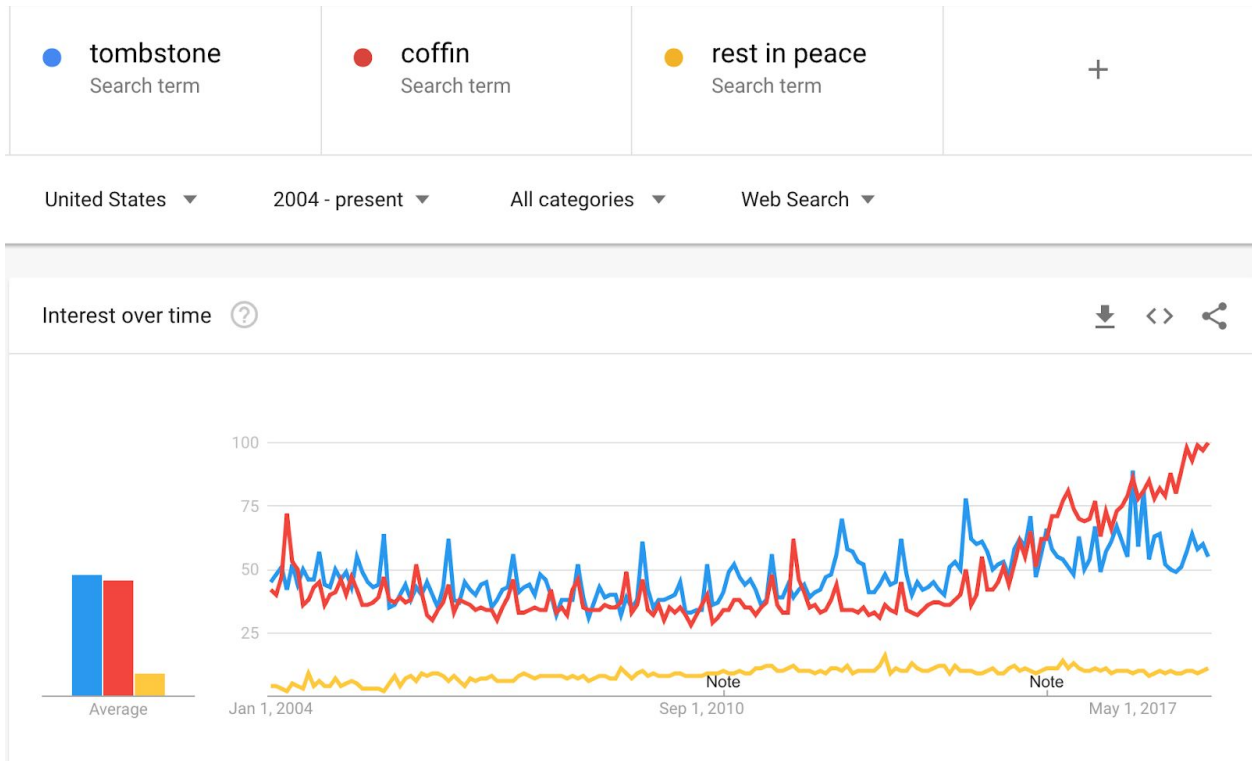
coffin



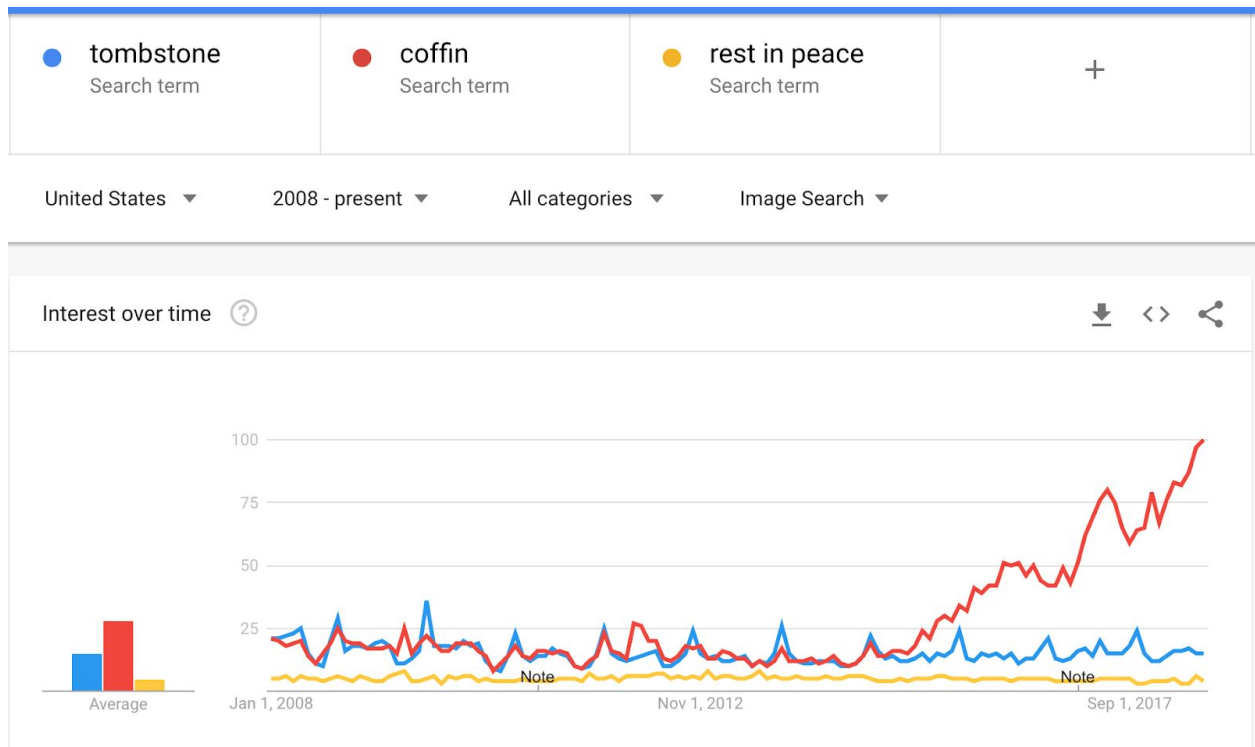
Home

About 1,740,000 results

D. Google Trends: Web Search



E. Google Trends: Image Search



Sort Location

Category: Objects - Other

Emoji before: Coffin

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