THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

KEY STAGE 3/4

# WW1 Remembrance Introductory Lesson For KS3/4

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

National Literacy Trust

Changing life stories

# WW1 Remembrance Introductory Lesson For KS3/4

The First World War generation served, sacrificed and changed our world today. The Royal British Legion encourages you to find your way to say thank you to them by looking at the efforts of an entire generation around the themes of the Armed Forces, The Commonwealth, Women, Children, Pioneers and the Arts. You can explore and appreciate their legacies in your world today.

As well as the literacy outcomes identified below, these lessons link to the national curriculum KS3 History Programme of Study which states:

*"Pupils should identify significant events, make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends within periods and over long arcs of time. They should use historical terms and concepts in increasingly sophisticated ways. They should pursue historically valid enquiries including some they have framed themselves..."*

**WWW.RBL.ORG.UK/REMEMBRANCE**

## LESSON 1

# Context lesson for Remembrance

**Lesson 1:** Context lesson for Remembrance

**Learning objective:**

To understand the role of The Royal British Legion in Remembrance and to introduce the KS3 and KS4 Remembrance lessons.

**Description:**

This lesson will introduce the role of The Royal British Legion and the group you will be remembering this week.

**Literacy outcomes:**

**Speaking:** participate in a group discussion.

**Reading:** use online texts to find information.

**Reading:** summarise information to provide an overview of a topic.

**Teacher notes:**

The week leading up to Remembrance Sunday provides an opportunity for us to remember all the people who contributed to the First World War effort in some way including the soldiers on the frontline, the surgeons working to save injured soldiers' lives and the women who took on new jobs to keep the country running.

Students will work towards a piece of writing, which is a personal act of Remembrance. All of the symbols and ceremonies of Remembrance which are recognised today – such as the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, Two Minute Silence, and the poppy, were borne out of the First World War. Draw the link between this lesson and these symbols and ceremonies. While very different, all demonstrate participation in Remembrance activity which serves to highlight the personal nature of Remembrance.

## LESSON 1

| **Lesson 1:** Context lesson for Remembrance | |
|---|---|
| **Resources:**<br>Research feedback template | **Differentiation:**<br>The suggested visual information should ensure that all children are able to find relevant information to understand the task.<br>You may want to provide focused questions for groups who need additional support with research and reading comprehension.<br>A template for supporting and recording research findings is provided. |

# Introduction

Show the class The Royal British Legion's Thank You film: https://youtu.be/AKrzUrehjag
As a class, discuss the images, the generation who fought, worked and lived through WW1 both at home and away.

- What kinds of people were involved in the fighting element of the war?
- Who else besides soldiers changed our world?
- How did they change our world?
- Who would you want to thank?

Tell the pupils that, as part of the war effort, women and children were required to take on men's roles whilst they were away fighting. People from the Commonwealth also made a huge contribution including fighting.

...

## LESSON 1

Show pupils The Royal British Legion's films of some of these groups:

Arts - https://youtu.be/L_KcPfv7pFQ

Commonwealth - https://youtu.be/2VRqnn8gKLU

Pioneers - https://youtu.be/6JgqVoR7UMQ

Women - https://youtu.be/sROH7LPWPDA

Explain that, in 1918, the whole population were relieved that the war has ended but wanted a lasting Remembrance to ensure that the sacrifices of millions were never forgotten. The Royal British Legion was founded in 1921 and started the poppy appeal that year to remember the fallen servicemen and women.

Now, more than 100 years since Armistice in 1918, The Royal British Legion and the National Literacy Trust are asking us to send a thank you message to someone who's efforts ended the war and changed the world.

# Main Activity

Split the class into four groups. Each group to research an area transformed during WW1:

1. Women - in medicine, (factories, cities, countryside)
2. Pioneers - Scientific Inventions (stainless steel, X rays, surgery, blood transfusions)
3. Arts (literature, art, photography)
4. Role of Commonwealth (Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, West Indies etc)

**1. Useful research links Women:**

- What did WW1 really do for women? www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z9bf9j6
- Women's roles on the home front www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/26439020
- Woman's hour view on WW1 women www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01qr14t
- The Royal British Legion's timeline of women in war: www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/women-at-war
- Imperial War Museum's collection www.iwm.org.uk/history/5-inspirational-stories-of-women-in-the-first-world-war, www.1914.org/womenswork100

# LESSON 1

### 2. Useful research links Pioneers/ Inventions

- Inventions with WW1 origins www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-26935867
- Treating war injuries www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zs3wpv4
- Blood bank www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zs3wpv4#z86bjxs

### 3. Useful research links Arts / Photography:

- War photography www.britishlegion.org.uk//photography-in-ww1
- National Library of Scotland War Photography https://digital.nls.uk/first-world-war-official-photographs/archive/75208532
- British Library www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/photography, www.bl.uk/collection-items?publisher=Girdwood+Collection
- On the Western Front, press photographers were excluded by all sides early in the war, although some found a way round this. The Canadian professional photographer Charles Hilton De Witt Girdwood managed to reach an agreement with the British government's India Office to film and photograph Indian troops on the Western Front in 1915 www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles/the-indian-sepoy-in-the-first-world-war
- IWM Art collections: www.iwm.org.uk/collections/art-design

### 4. Commonwealth contribution

- The Royal British Legion www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance/commonwealth-in-wwi
- National Army museum www.nam.ac.uk/explore/commonwealth-and-first-world-war www.ww1commonwealthcontribution.org/
- IWM African soldier https://www.iwm.org.uk/events/african-soldier

Pupils to research online, write a short summary, and then share with the rest of the class. Use the template provided for research support and feedback. Allow time for the rest of the class to ask questions. You will find there are links between different themes e.g., the women were also pioneers. The photographers also took pictures of Commonwealth troops.

Arts - https://youtu.be/L_KcPfv7pFQ

Commonwealth - https://youtu.be/2VRqnn8gKLU

Pioneers - https://youtu.be/6JgqVoR7UMQ

Women - https://youtu.be/sROH7LPWPDA

## LESSON 1

Explain that, in 1918, the whole population were relieved that the war has ended but wanted a lasting Remembrance to ensure that the sacrifices of millions were never forgotten. The Royal British Legion was founded in 1921 and started the poppy appeal that year to remember the fallen servicemen and women.

Now, more than 100 years since Armistice in 1918, The Royal British Legion and the National Literacy Trust are asking us to send a thank you message to someone who's efforts ended the war and changed the world.

# Next Lesson:

Choose one of the 4 mini schemes of work to prepare the class to produce a piece of writing in response.

Women - Women in Medicine (Anderson, Murray and Inglis) KS3

Pioneers - Stainless Steel (Harry Brearley) KS3

Pioneers - War Photography (Edward Brooks) KS4

Arts – War and literature (JRR Tolkien) KS4