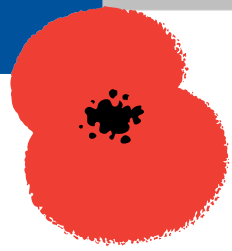


Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



DAY 1: WHAT DO WE REMEMBER?

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Screen
- A tray or table with a selection of everyday items on it, and a large cloth to cover it, (or a picture depicting the same type of thing - if the room is too large for pupils to see at the back).

Start

Show the table or the picture

Script

Can you see this table?

Take a look. Can you remember everything that is on it? *(Now hide the table under the cloth or take down the picture).*

Can you name everything and what it all looked like? It's difficult isn't it?

Look around at all your friends. Can you remember all their birthdays? Can you remember all their birthdays and all the birthdays of your family, including some family that you never see?

It's difficult isn't it? That is why we try and use things as reminders.

We use songs sometimes.

Add some examples of songs or events that have symbols – e.g. lanterns for Halloween

Sometimes we use symbols

Show a picture of a poppy

Do you recognise this flower? This is a Poppy. Poppies are worn at the start of November. They are a symbol of Remembrance.

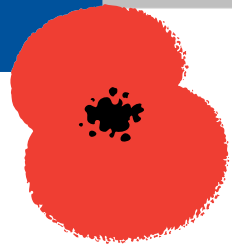
This symbol reminds people of a day that is important to lots of people. The Poppy helps people to remember Remembrance Day, something important to all our lives.

Moment of reflection

This week we will learn about the importance of Remembrance. We will learn about some of the ways that people remember things and we will learn about what it is they remember when they wear the Poppy. We will learn about how important it is to remember certain things and we will help keep that memory.

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



Prayer or Poem:

Remember

by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad

Or

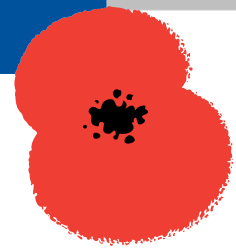
Night in al-hamra

by Saadi Youssef (translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)

A candle on the long road
A candle in the slumbering houses
A candle for the terrified stores
A candle for the bakeries
A candle for the journalist shuddering in an empty office
A candle for the fighter
A candle for the doctor at the sick bed
A candle for the wounded
A candle for honest talk
A candle for staircases
A candle for the hotel crowded with refugees
A candle for the singer
A candle for the broadcasters in a shelter
A candle for a bottle of water
A candle for the air
A candle for two lovers in a stripped apartment
A candle for the sky that has folded
A candle for the beginning
A candle for the end
A candle for the final decision
A candle for conscience
A candle in my hand

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



DAY 2: THE POPPY

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom, for pictures and poetry to project on the screen.
- Screen

Start

Show one of the pictures of a Poppy from the CD Rom – The pictures ‘The Royal British Legion’ has plenty.

Script:

What is this a picture of? We saw this symbol yesterday, do you remember why?

It is a symbol of Remembrance – that means it helps us to remember something.

Do you wear a Poppy?

The Poppy is a very special symbol that reminds of something very particular. It is the symbol of Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is the day for us to remember all the people who have fought, been killed, have been injured or had their lives affected by war.

Do you know why the Poppy was chosen? Let me read you a poem:

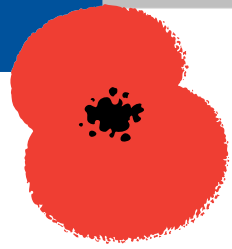
In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly

That poem was written after World War One. In the fields where the war was fought, the only thing that would grow was the poppy. The red petals reminded people of the awful suffering that had happened but the Poppy as a flower also reminded people of the importance of life.

The poem was written by a Canadian Doctor, John McCrae who had been in World War One and saw the poppies growing. The Poppy inspired people who believed that those who had fought should not be forgotten and they started to wear a poppy at the time of the anniversary of the end of the war.

Now we wear the Poppy every year to remember all the people who have fought and been affected by war. The Royal British Legion was created to help the veterans who returned from World War One and their families. The Legion still uses the Poppy as a symbol of Remembrance and Poppies are still used to raise funds for British ex-Service men and women and their families.

Moment of reflection

The Poppy is a symbol that we can all wear and that can help us all to remember the horrors of war; to think about and hope for those people who fight in them and those people who are affected by them. The Poppy can help us to remember how important peace is.

Prayer or Poem:

Why Wear a Poppy

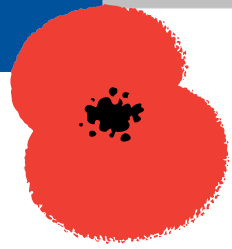
by Don Crawford

“Please wear a poppy,” the lady said,
And held one forth, but I shook my head,
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
And her face was old and lined with care;

But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.
A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on care-free feet.

His smile was full of joy and fun,
“Lady,” said he, “may I have one?”
When she’d pinned it on, he turned to say;
“Why do we wear a poppy today?”

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered; “This is Remembrance Day.
And the poppy there is a symbol for
The gallant men who died in war.



Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly

And because they did, you and I are free -
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.
I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.

He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird, he would race about.
As the years went by, he learned and grew,
And became a man - as you will, too.

He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day.

When he smiled at me and said, 'Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mum, please don't cry.'
But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.

His letters told of the awful fight
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.

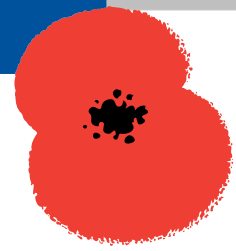
Till at last, at last, the war was won -
And that's why we wear a poppy, son."
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said: "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.

I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me, you'd have done the same:
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so, when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy! Remember - and Give!

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



DAY 3: MEMORIALS

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom – picture of the Cenotaph in the History of the Royal British Legion section.
- Get a picture of a war memorial local to your school (if not possible there is a picture of a village memorial in The Royal British Legion in pictures – 2000 – 2001 and a picture of the Women's war memorial in 2005)
- Screen

Start

Show a picture of the Cenotaph

Script

Do you recognise this structure? This is the Cenotaph in London. It was built in 1919 for the first anniversary of World War One – Armistice Day.

The Cenotaph was designed and built by Sir Edwin Lutyens at the request of the Prime Minister, Lloyd George. It was not intended to be a permanent structure, but the public response to it as a site for leaving wreaths to the dead and missing encouraged the authorities to make it permanent.

Why do you think it became important for people to lay wreaths?

During the First and Second World Wars the people that were killed in the battles such as soldiers, doctors, ambulance drivers and nurses were buried near to where they were killed. That meant that their relatives at home could not easily go and visit the graves or put flowers on them.

Memorials such as the Cenotaph became the place that people could go to.

Show another war memorial – ideally one in your own area

Do you recognise this memorial?

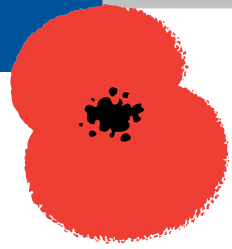
This is to the people who were killed in World War One from this (*name*) area. Memorials like this are in most towns and villages across the UK because so many people were killed or injured. The memorials sometimes have names on them, sometimes they just say that they are in memory to those that fought. The memorials also exist to remind us all of the sacrifice given by those that fought.

Moment of reflection

All around the UK, Commonwealth countries and across the world are memorials about war. Those memorials remind us of the individuals who fought, they remind us that at home those people had families and friends. It is because of those individuals from all across the world that we are able to have the lives we do today. Every time we see a memorial we will remember those individuals.

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



Prayer or Poem:

The Cenotaph

by Charlotte Mew, 1919

Not yet will those measureless fields be green again
Where only yesterday the wild sweet blood of wonderful youth was shed;
There is a grave whose earth must hold too long, too deep a stain,
Though for ever over it we may speak as proudly as we may tread.
But here, where the watchers by lonely hearths from the thrust of an
inward sword have more slowly bled,
We shall build the Cenotaph: Victory, winged, with Peace, winged too, at the column's head.
And over the stairway, at the foot -- oh! here, leave desolate, passionate hands to spread
Violets, roses, and laurel, with the small, sweet, tinkling country things
Speaking so wistfully of other Springs,
From the little gardens of little places where son or sweetheart was born and bred.
In splendid sleep, with a thousand brothers
To lovers - to mothers
Here, too, lies he: Under the purple, the green, the red,
It is all young life: it must break some women's hearts to see
Such a brave, gay coverlet to such a bed!
Only, when all is done and said,
God is not mocked and neither are the dead
For this will stand in our Market-place -
Who'll sell, who'll buy?
(Will you or I
Lie each to each with the better grace?)
While looking into every busy whore's and huckster's face
As they drive their bargains, is the Face
Of God: and some young, piteous, murdered face.

Or,

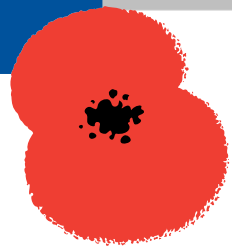
In Memoriam

by Edward Thomas, Easter, 1915

The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood
This Eastertide call into mind the men,
Now far from home, who, with their sweethearts, should
Have gathered them and will do never again.

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



DAY 4: POETRY AND REMEMBRANCE

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Screen
- In this assembly any of the poets from those featured in World War One Section on the CD Rom can be selected and the script simply adapted. As an example, Isaac Rosenberg and Wilfred Owen have been selected here.

Start

Show the pictures of some of the poets from the section 'Soldier Poets of World War One'

Script

Do you recognise any of these people?

These are Soldiers who fought in World War One. They are also poets.

World War One introduced something called 'conscription' which meant that men of a certain age could be called up to fight regardless of what their job was. World War One was also a war where the Government encouraged all men to join the army even if they had other jobs.

Both of those things meant that there were men from lots of different backgrounds and with different skills who fought and were injured or killed.

The War affected lots of people and many of those who fought wrote about their experiences. Two of these were Isaac Rosenberg and Wilfred Owen who both fought for Britain in the War. Their poems helped the public in Britain to understand what the experience of fighting in the trenches was like.

Isaac Rosenberg

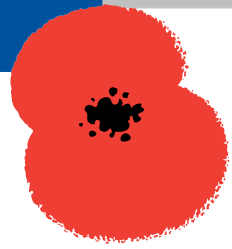
Isaac Rosenberg was born into a working-class Jewish family that had emigrated from Russia and eventually moved to the East End of London.

His working-class origins and economic circumstances prevented him from attending Oxford or Cambridge, but he was a talented artist and enrolled in evening classes in the Art School of Birkbeck College, London University. He had hoped to make his living as a portrait artist and had moved to South Africa to pursue his career when the war broke out. He returned to England in 1915, enlisted in 1916 and was killed at the front on April 3, 1918.

(choose one poem)

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



(1) In The Trenches **by Isaac Rosenberg (1916)**

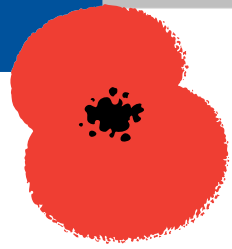
I snatched two poppies
From the parapet's ledge,
Two bright red poppies
That winked on the ledge.
Behind my ear
I stuck one through,
One blood red poppy
I gave to you.
The sandbags narrowed
And screwed out our jest,
And tore the poppy
You had on your breast ...
Down - a shell - O! Christ,
I am choked ... safe ... dust blind, I
See trench floor poppies
Strewn. Smashed you lie.

(2) Break of Day in the Trenches **by Isaac Rosenberg (1916)**

The darkness crumbles away.
It is the same old druid Time as ever,
Only a live thing leaps my hand,
A queer sardonic rat,
As I pull the parapet's poppy
To stick behind my ear.
Droll rat, they would shoot you if they knew
Your cosmopolitan sympathies.
Now you have touched this English hand
You will do the same to a German
Soon, no doubt, if it be your pleasure
To cross the sleeping green between.
It seems you inwardly grin as you pass
Strong eyes, fine limbs, haughty athletes,
Less chanced than you for life,
Bonds to the whims of murder,
Sprawled in the bowels of the earth,
The torn fields of France.
What do you see in our eyes
At the shrieking iron and flame
Hurled through still heavens ?
What quaver - what heart aghast?
Poppies whose roots are in man's veins
Drop, and are ever dropping;
But mine in my ear is safe -
Just a little white with the dust.

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

Owen was on the Continent teaching until he visited a hospital for the wounded and then decided, in September, 1915, to return to England and enlist. "I came out in order to help these boys - directly by leading them as well as an officer can; indirectly, by watching their sufferings that I may speak of them as well as a leader can. I have done the first" (October, 1918).

Owen was injured in March 1917 and sent home; he was fit for duty in August, 1918, and returned to the front on 4 November, just seven days before the Armistice, he was caught in a German machine gun attack and killed. He was twenty-five.

(choose one poem)

(1) Anthem for Doomed Youth by Wilfred Owen

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

(2) Futility by Wilfred Owen

Move him into the sun --

Gently its touch awoke him once,

At home, whispering of fields unsown.

Always it woke him, even in France,

Until this morning and this snow.

If anything might rouse him now

The kind old sun will know.

Think how it wakes the seeds --

Woke, once, the clays of a cold star.

Are limbs so dear-achieved, are sides

Full-nerved, -- still warm, -- too hard to stir?

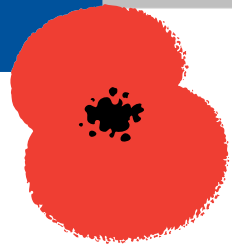
Was it for this the clay grew tall?

-- O what made fatuous sunbeams toil

To break earth's sleep at all?

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly

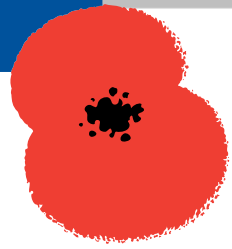


Moment of reflection

It is sometimes difficult to think of something as horrible as war producing beautiful poetry, but the poetry helps us to understand the hideous experience of war. Although the poetry is often sad it reminds us of what it must have been like to have lived in the conditions that those poets did. Poetry helps us to remember and understand the sacrifices that they made and the horrors that they witnessed and we are grateful that their words are able to reach us.

Prayer or Poem:

Select any of the poems not already used.



Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly.
This assembly is suitable for younger and older students by adapting the language. Its purpose is to inform young people about the importance of individual people in conflict and the role of families in Remembrance.

DAY 5: THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN REMEMBRANCE

In preparation:

- The Story of John Pott and his family, featured in The Royal British Legion DVD and this CD Rom
- Background reading on the Battle of Arnhem, World War Two.

Script

This week some of us are wearing poppies – do you know why we are doing that?

The Poppy is a symbol of Remembrance– it was adopted nearly 90 years ago after the end of World War One. Its purpose was to remind everyone of the terrible effects of the war and of the incredible sacrifice so many had made, fighting and supporting their country in the conflict. Millions had been killed or injured and millions more had their lives changed, through the loss of a family member or loved one, and by the overall affects of the conflict.

The Poppy was adopted as a way of raising money for those ex-Service men and their families whose lives had been damaged by the conflict. The Poppy was chosen because it was a sturdy, brightly coloured plant and one of the few flowers that grew on the battlefields of Western Europe. For many people, it was a symbol of hope amongst so much horror.

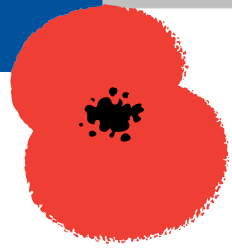
World War One ended at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month (ie 11th November) 1918, also known as Armistice Day. Representatives of The Royal British Legion worked with the Government to create a national day of Remembrance so that all those who had died or were injured should never be forgotten. Sadly, the end of World War One did not mean the end of war and World War Two began only 21 years later. After this second global conflict ended in 1945, both the Poppy and November 11th became adopted in the UK, as the official symbol and time that all conflicts, and people affected by conflict, are remembered.

The Royal British Legion still ensures that every year, Poppies are made available to anyone wanting to wear one, as a powerful symbol of Remembrance and pride in our Armed Forces and to support them and their families. The money raised by what has become known as The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, still goes to support Serving and ex-Service men and women and their families. That means that, once a year on the 11 November, we all remember the people whose lives are affected by conflict. But some people also remember people and conflict at other times. They do that because of their personal connections and family experiences.

This film clip shows the son and grandson of John Pott who planned a journey of Remembrance to a place called Arnhem where John Pott fought and in 1944. He was injured and captured and many years later he wrote about his experiences:

Show the film or read an extract of John Potts letter and account.

The journey to the site where John fought was extremely emotional for his family – it helped them to realise what his experiences meant to him and how it affected his life. Knowing John's story also made his family relate more closely to the events of World War Two and has made them want to encourage people to understand and take part in Remembrance.



Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly.
This assembly is suitable for younger and older students by adapting the language. Its purpose is to inform young people about the importance of individual people in conflict and the role of families in Remembrance.

They were lucky that John returned, when so many others did not. By remembering John Pott, his family is also remembering all those that John knew, those who fought alongside him, the men in his battalion who were killed and all those who helped him.

Moment of reflection

At this time of year, we wear a Poppy to remember all those whose lives are affected by wars in the past and also in the present. We are reminded that wars are the story of lots of individual people and that those people could be our relatives and our friends. We are reminded that wars damage lives and that we can all play a part in working for a peaceful world.

Prayer or Poem:

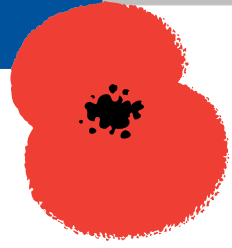
The suggested poem is one by John Jarman, a British poet and mathematician who served in World War Two. He was killed during the Normandy landing in 1944, at the age of 33, leaving a widow and a daughter.

At A War Grave

No grave is rich, the dust that herein lies
Beneath this white cross mixing with the sand
Was vital once, with skill of eye and hand
And speed of brain. These will not re-arise
These riches, nor will they be replaced;
They are lost and nothing now, and here is left
Only a worthless corpse of sense bereft,
Symbol of death, and sacrifice and waste.

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



DAY 6: REMEMBRANCE DAY

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Screen

Start

Show pictures of poppies or the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey from the pictures section of The Royal British Legion.

Script

November 11 is **always** Remembrance Day.

Each year on the Sunday nearest to 11 November (Remembrance Day), at 11 o'clock in the morning, a Remembrance Service is held at the Cenotaph. The service is to commemorate British and Commonwealth Service men and women who died in the two World Wars and later conflicts. HM The Queen, religious leaders, politicians, representatives of state and the armed and auxiliary forces, gather to pay respect to those who gave their lives defending others.

Option – show pictures of World War One

The first Remembrance Day took place in 1919, one year after the end of World War One. That war had been one of the worst wars to have taken place. Millions of men from all across the world fought in it. It was also the first war that large number of women took part, either as ambulance drivers and nurses or in war work, such as factory jobs or working on farms.

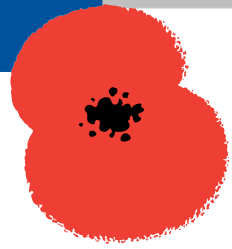
World War One was one of the worst the world had ever seen. Millions of people from both sides were killed.

Option (if not used earlier in the week)

Some of the bloodiest fighting of World War One took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France. The poppy was the only thing which grew in the aftermath of the complete devastation. John McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces was deeply inspired and moved by what he saw. He wrote these verses.

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Or Option 2

Some of the worst fighting took place in France and Belgium. That is where the only thing that seemed to grow after the fighting had finished were poppies.

For everyone:

After the War ended, the Poppy became a symbol of Remembrance. On the first anniversary of the end of the war, a service was held in memory of all those who had fought. At 11 o'clock, the same time that the Armistice (peace agreement) was signed there was A Two Minute Silence.

Show a picture of the Remembrance Day service from the pictures section of the CD Rom.

Now every year on 11 November at 11 o'clock there is A Two Minute Silence. This also takes place on the Sunday nearest to 11 November.

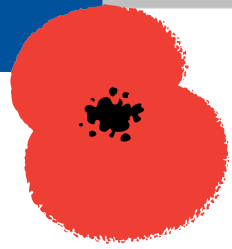
At the service, the following words are usually read out in memory of those who are killed in wars.

**“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”**

Extract from “For the Fallen” by Laurence Binyon

Remembrance

Six assemblies to follow the theme of Remembrance for one week
The assembly on day six can be used as a stand-alone assembly



Men and women still serve in the British Armed Forces today. Remembrance Day is for all those that have served, those still serving and those affected by war.

Moment of reflection

Remembrance Day is a day of reflection, it allows us to remember or think about all those people who are affected by wars, both in the past and now. It allows us to think about all those people who suffer in wars all around the world. And it reminds us how important it is to work for peace.

Prayer or Poem:

Anthem for Doomed Youth

by Wilfred Owen

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Or,

Sometimes

by Sheenagh Pugh

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail.

Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war,

elect an honest man, decide they care

enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.

Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best intentions do not go

amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.

The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow

that seemed hard frozen; may it happen for you.