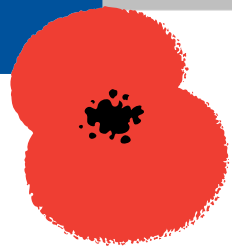


## A week learning and Remembering the First World War

Introduction – the five assemblies here can be used for the week before Remembrance Sunday. The poem currently listed as day 5 can be used on Armistice Day (11th November) if you wish. After the first days assembly the assemblies for days 2, 3, and 4 can in fact be used in any order.



## DAY 5: REMEMBRANCE DAY

### In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Decide whether to show a Remembrance service from the DVD or allow the pupils to have their own, in which case ask them to choose a reading or poem about the War in advance.

### Start

*Show a picture of the Cenotaph or your local war memorial*

### Script

This picture is a war memorial. There are war memorials all over the UK. Some have the names of those that fought, some just have the numbers.

It was important for those that survived the war to remember those that they had lost and these memorials are part of that Remembrance. But the victims of the war were not just those that were killed.

Many men returned from the fighting injured and some would never be able to work again. For the families that had lost someone, such as a husband or father, there was now one less person to work – and in those days there was no welfare state that would help people.

The Royal British Legion was created in 1921 to help the ex-Servicemen when they came home and to help the families of the ex-Servicemen. It is a charitable organisation and it raises funds through The Poppy Appeal to support that work.

It stills helps ex-Servicemen and women and their families today.

Because of that role and its adoption of the Poppy, The Legion also became the official custodian of Remembrance. That is, it has the responsibility to make sure that every year the people that we have learnt about and are affected by conflict are remembered.

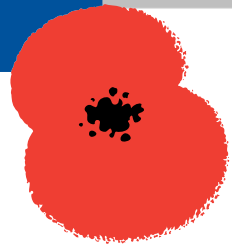
11 November is **always** Remembrance Day.

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.

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.

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*Option show a Remembrance service from the DVD or ask the pupils to have their own as follows:*

Select a poem from one of those on the CD Rom or ask the pupils to choose one they have heard this week.

Prepare the pupils that this is an important moment.

Read the selected poem.

Then have A Two Minute Silence (one minute is fine if the pupils are quite young)!  
Then ask a pupil to read the exhortation:

**“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.”**

**(An extract from “For The Fallen” by Laurence Binyon)**

### **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.