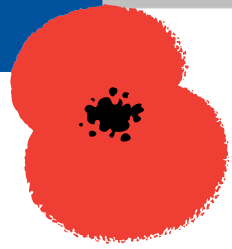


This series of assemblies for Key Stages 1 and 2 has a couple of days repeated from the first series but with a new assembly for Day 1 (for slightly older groups) and Day 4 and some changes to Day 2. Day 4 can be used as a stand-alone assembly as can the one listed for Day 5. If you want to learn about Remembrance over three mornings up until Remembrance day use Day 2, 4 and 5 assemblies



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 is 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.

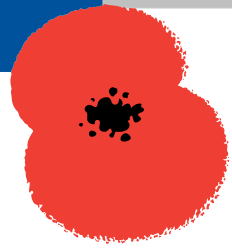
Do you know why the Poppy was chosen? Let me read you a poem:

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 the 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.



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That Poem was written after the First World War. In the fields where the war was fought the only thing that would grow was the poppy. The Poppy as a flower reminded people of the importance of life, it became a symbol of hope on the battlefield.

The poem was written by a Canadian doctor John McCrae who was in the First World War and saw the poppies growing. He worked in an army field hospital and tried to save the lives of those who were injured. But he also saw a lot of soldiers die. He wrote the poem to tell people not to forget those that had been killed. 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 when the fighting in the war had stopped.

The Poppy became people's way of saying that they remembered the terrible suffering of war and that it shouldn't be forgotten.

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 the First World War and their families. The Legion still uses the Poppy as a symbol of Remembrance and the sale of Poppies is still used to raise funds for ex-British service Men and Women and their families.

Option: show some footage from the DVD of people wearing poppies or being at a Remembrance event.

Moment of reflection

The Poppy is a symbol that we can all wear, 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.

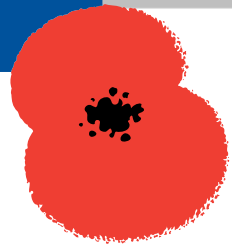
Prayer or Poem:

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?"



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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.

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!