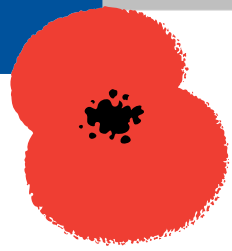


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DAY 3: MEMORIALS

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 the First World War – Armistice Day.

The Cenotaph was designed and built by 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 go and visit the graves or put flowers on them.

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

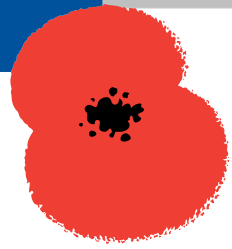
Show another war memorial – ideally one in your own area

Do you recognise this memorial?

This is to the people who were killed in the First World War from this (that) area. Memorial 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 the 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 the individuals.



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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 (Easter, 1915) by Edward Thomas

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.