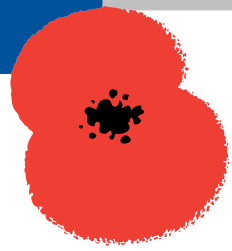


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DAY 5: REMEMBRANCE DAY

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Screen

Start

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

Script

November the eleventh is always Remembrance Day.

Each year on the Sunday nearest to 11th 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 servicemen and women who died in the two World Wars and later conflicts. 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.

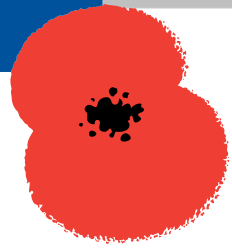
Option – show pictures of the First World War

The first Remembrance Day took place in 1919, one year after the end of the First World War. 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 nurses and in war work, such as factory jobs or working on farms.

The First World War was one of the worst the world had ever seen. Millions of men 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. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, deeply inspired and moved by what he saw, wrote these verses



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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.

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 had finished 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

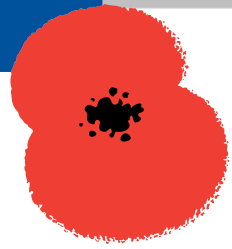
Now every year on November 11th at 11 O'clock there is a 2 minute silence. This is also carried out on the Sunday nearest to the November 11th.

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 contemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”

by Laurence Binyon

Men and women still serve in the British forces today. And Remembrance Day is for all those that have served and been affected by war.



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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.