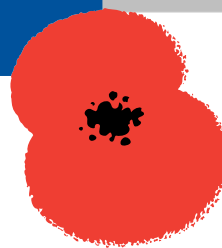


Secondary Assemblies Key Stage 3

- Assembly 1 – Remembrance
- Assembly 2 – For The Falklands War
- Assembly 3 – For Remembering the First World War
- Assembly 4 – Anniversary of D Day
- Assembly 5 – Why are we remembering?



WHY ARE WE STILL REMEMBERING?

In preparation:

- Download one or more of the case studies of people affected by conflict e.g. Walter Tull, SOE's or Rifleman Yubraj Rai.
- Screen
- The Royal British Legion CD Rom - On the CD Rom is a selection of images of servicemen and women and civilians affected by war – you may wish to choose a selection of these.
- On the DVD is footage of Remembrance events to show.

Script

Today (or this week) is November 11th – Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. And on this day we are encouraged to wear a Poppy and to hold 2 minutes silence.

Why?

Many of you will know the history of 11th November and its significance – at 11.00am on the 11 November 1918 the Armistice began that was the end of the Great War or the First World War as it is now known. In 1919 on the first anniversary of the Armistice a service was held – and now 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.

So this year is the 90th anniversary of that first service – 91 years since the guns fell silent after four years of war.

This year it is also the 70th anniversary of the start of the Second World War – another huge global conflict that changed the lives of millions. So maybe the message of Remembrance that started in 1919 didn't work – maybe remembering is pointless, as conflicts and wars keep on happening?

But that depends on what Remembrance is and what we are remembering. Is it war we are remembering or the millions of lives that are affected by conflict and war?

Conflicts and wars happen all over the world and have done throughout human history. Some have been bigger than others - some have been considered 'just wars' others have been about land, influence or resources. It is important that we know about some of these conflicts and wars because they have shaped the world that we live in today.

But the most important aspect of remembering wars is to remember the people whose lives are affected by them, either through the fighting or from knowing someone who has been through it as a soldier or civilian.

Select one or more of the case studies that you have downloaded and ask some students to read them out.

Secondary Assemblies Key Stage 3

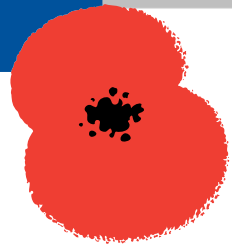
Assembly 1 – Remembrance

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It is important that we know some of the names of those who are affected by wars – it reminds us that they are real with real lives. It is people who are the real Remembrance message.

Before 1919 servicemen and civilians were not remembered unless they were important or officers – The First World War and the service of 1919 changed that when the Cenotaph became a focal point to remember all the men who had answered their country's call to go to war and for all the families whose lives were never the same because of that war. All across the country war memorials appeared – mainly paid for by local communities so that they would not forget the individuals – the real people.

Today men and women continue to take part in and be affected by conflict. It is just as important today that we remember their names as it was 90 years ago. After all we are in a society that is relatively peaceful and that is partly due to the sacrifice that others have made.

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

Poem or Prayer:

There are 2 choices

At A War Grave

by John Jarman

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.

John Jarman was an officer in the Second World War and was killed during the Battle for Normandy in 1944.

Secondary Assemblies Key Stage 3

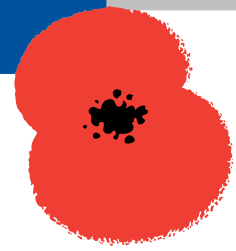
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Or

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.

Dr John McCrae served as a medical officer in the First World War.