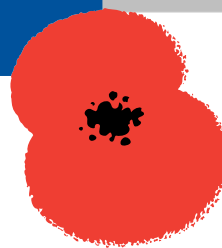


Secondary Assemblies Key Stage 3

- 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?



REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom – picture of the Cenotaph in the History of the Royal British Legion Section.

Start

Show an image of the Poppy

Script

Today (insert the day), is Remembrance Day. At 11 o'clock it will be the 90th Anniversary of the end of the First World War.

That war now seems like a very long time ago, especially when there have been plenty of wars since then.

But the First World War changed modern warfare. For some people it defined the horror that would come out of the twentieth century. Millions of men fought in the battles from all across the world. For the first time the role of British women changed in war – in the UK young women worked in factories and on farms, others travelled to the battlefields to be nurses and ambulance drivers.

Once the war was over, many felt that the sacrifice of all those people should not be forgotten.

In 1919, on the first anniversary of the Armistice, a service was held. Now 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 now commemorates British and Commonwealth Service men and women who died in the two World Wars and in 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.

The Cenotaph is not the only memorial. All over the country there are memorials to those who fought and today and this weekend they will be covered in wreaths of Poppies.

The Poppy was adopted in 1921 by The Royal British Legion as the symbol of Remembrance. People had begun to adopt the Poppy after being inspired by the poem of a Canadian Doctor, John McCrae who had been present in France at the fighting.

Secondary Assemblies Key Stage 3

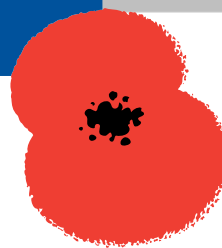
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In Flanders Fields

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.

This poem is no longer read out at the service and instead the following lines from another poet have been adopted:

**“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.”**

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.

Secondary Assemblies Key Stage 3

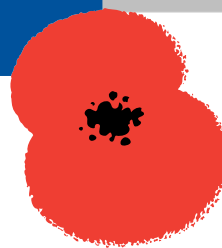
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Prayer or Poem:

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,

Night in al-hamra

by Saadi Youssef (translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)

A candle on the long road

A candle in the slumbering houses

A candle for the terrified stores

A candle for the bakeries

A candle for the journalist shuddering in an empty office

A candle for the fighter

A candle for the doctor at the sick bed

A candle for the wounded

A candle for honest talk

A candle for staircases

A candle for the hotel crowded with refugees

A candle for the singer

A candle for the broadcasters in a shelter

A candle for a bottle of water

A candle for the air

A candle for two lovers in a stripped apartment

A candle for the sky that has folded

A candle for the beginning

A candle for the end

A candle for the final decision

A candle for conscience

A candle in my hand