

Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - Remembrance and the First World War centenary

Why do we still need to remember events from so long ago?

These two assemblies address the subjects of Remembrance and the Centenary of the First World War and are designed to be delivered over two days.

Day One

In preparation you will need:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom
- Screen
- A poppy

Script

Does anyone recognise this (*hold up an actual poppy*)?

This is a poppy and we wear the poppy as a symbol to help us to remember something.

Aren't poppies beautiful?

When you think of flowers do you think of good things or bad things?

Usually good things, as flowers make us feel happy.

Even at a terrible time flowers can help us feel hope.

Between 1914–1918 Britain was involved with a terrible war – some of you may have heard of it – it was the war we now call the First World War, or the Great War.

During that war a serving doctor noticed the poppies growing on the battlefields. He had spent his day trying to help the men who had been hurt in the fighting.

Shall we read the poem?

In Flanders Fields

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.

That is a lovely poem but it is also a poem with a message. It says that it is passing on the torch – do you know what that might mean?

The writer of the poem wanted the horror that he had seen to be remembered so that the sacrifice of those that had fought would not be forgotten.

After the war was over some people just wanted to forget about it because millions of people had been killed or hurt. But so many people had been involved others thought it should be remembered. They hoped that if people remembered how bad war was it might not happen again.

Because the poppy had grown on the battlefields of Western Europe where so many men had fought it was adopted as a symbol. A symbol helps us to remember, but the symbol was not to be sad by using the flower, it was to be a symbol of hope. The poppy had been the only thing that had still grown on the battlefields amongst so much fighting – it was a little flower of hope that showed that things could survive even when the whole world seemed to be in a terrible mess.

People have been wearing a poppy every November for nearly 100 years – isn't it good that you are helping to keep alive a belief in hope after so many years.

So when we wear the poppy we are thinking about the terrible wars that make everything bad, but we are also wearing a poppy because it gave people a feeling of hope. We are reminding those around us that the poppy was chosen so that we would learn about those men and women from the past and those now who go and do dangerous things in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Also we are doing what John McCrae asked as well – we/you are making sure that all those people who have been killed in wars will be thought about at least one day of the year. If enough people think about that then we might start being able to stop wars.

Moment of reflection

This week we will learn about the importance of Remembrance. We will learn about some of the ways that people remember things and we will learn about what it is they remember when they wear the poppy. We learn about how important it is to remember certain things and we will help keep that memory and message going from generation to generation.

Poem or prayer

Remember

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:

For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad

Day two

In Preparation:

- A poppy

Script

Holding up the poppy - Can you remember what this is and what it is for?

Can you remember the poem that seems to go with it – shall we hear it again?

In Flanders Fields

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.

As well as the poppy it was decided that if people were going to remember it should be at a special time every year.

Although families who had someone killed or hurt might think about those people any day of the year, it was decided that there would be one time each year that everyone in Britain would think about those men and women and their families. It was decided that the day should also be one that gave hope – the day the fighting had stopped.

Can anyone tell me what day that is?

That day is 11 November, and the fighting stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning. So at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year we wear a poppy to think about those men and women.

The day is called Remembrance Day and on that day important things happen.

People hold an act of Remembrance. At an act of Remembrance a number of things can happen – poems can be read, so can names, letters, or anything that enables people to remember these people and what they went through.

The main two things that happen are the reading of the Exhortation and then a Two Minute Silence.

The exhortation is a poem:

"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."

At the end everyone repeats the line 'We will Remember them'. During the Two Minute Silence you can think about people you know or have heard about who have had their lives affected by conflict. Or you can just think about those people who are fighting in wars today and how hard that must be for their families at home. Who would you think about?

After the Two Minutes Silence people then lay wreaths – but you don't have to, it is remembering people that is important.

So do we just remember the men and the women from the the First World War?

No. Unfortunately many other wars have followed the First World War. In fact British people are on active Service around the world today.

So when we wear a poppy we are remembering all the men and women and their families whose lives are affected by war since the First World War.

Do you think it is just those that get killed that we remember when we wear a poppy?

No. The poppy and Remembrance day are about remembering or thinking about all those people whose lives are affected by war, including the families of those who fight. For 100 years the poppy and the Two Minute Silence have been a chance for us all to think about the people hurt by wars, and is rooted in a tradition of hope that the future will be peaceful.

So this year have a think about how you are keeping a tradition of hope alive that started 100 years ago.

Moment of reflection

Let us reflect on all those who have suffered in wars and think about how we can help them to feel hope.

Poem or prayer

Why Wear a Poppy.

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?"

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.

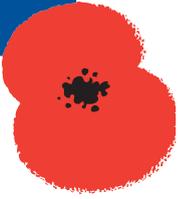
When he smiled at me and said, 'Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mum, please don't cry.'
But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.

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!



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - 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 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 end of World War One – Armistice Day.

The Cenotaph was designed and built by Sir 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 World War One and Two 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 easily 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 World War One from this (*name*) area. Memorials 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, Commonwealth countries and across the world are memorials about war. Those memorials remind us of the individuals who fought, and 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 those individuals.

Prayer or poem:

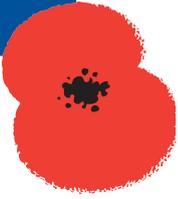
**The Cenotaph
Charlotte Mew, 1919**

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
Edward Thomas, Easter, 1915**

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.



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - Poetry and Remembrance

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom.
- Screen.
- In this assembly any of the poets from those featured in World War One section on the CD Rom can be selected and the script simply adapted. As an example, Isaac Rosenberg and Wilfred Owen have been selected here.

Start

Show the pictures of some of the poets from the section 'Soldier Poets of World War One'.

Script

Do you recognise any of these people?

These are soldiers who fought in World War One. They are also poets.

World War One introduced something called 'conscriptioin', which meant that men of a certain age could be called up to fight regardless of what their job was. World War One was also a war where the government encouraged all men to join the Army even if they had other jobs.

Both of those things meant that there were men from lots of different backgrounds and with different skills who fought and were injured or killed.

World War One affected lots of people and many of those who fought wrote about their experiences. Two of these were Isaac Rosenberg and Wilfred Owen. Their poems helped the public in Britain to understand what the experience of fighting in the trenches was like.

Isaac Rosenberg

Isaac Rosenberg was born into a working-class Jewish family that had emigrated from Russia and eventually moved to the East End of London.

His economic circumstances prevented him from attending Oxford or Cambridge, but he was a talented artist and enrolled in evening classes in the Art School of Birkbeck College, London University. He had hoped to make his living as a portrait artist and had moved to South Africa to pursue his career when the war broke out. He returned to England in 1915, enlisted in 1916 and was killed on 3 April, 1918.

(choose one poem)

(1) In The Trenches

Isaac Rosenberg (1916)

I snatched two poppies
From the parapet's ledge,
Two bright red poppies
That winked on the ledge.
Behind my ear
I stuck one through,
One blood red poppy
I gave to you.
The sandbags narrowed
And screwed out our jest,
And tore the poppy
You had on your breast ...
Down - a shell - O! Christ,
I am choked ... safe ... dust blind, I
See trench floor poppies
Strewn. Smashed you lie.

(2) Break of Day in the Trenches

Isaac Rosenberg (1916)

The darkness crumbles away.
It is the same old druid Time as ever,
Only a live thing leaps my hand,
A queer sardonic rat,
As I pull the parapet's poppy
To stick behind my ear.
Droll rat, they would shoot you if they knew
Your cosmopolitan sympathies.
Now you have touched this English hand
You will do the same to a German
Soon, no doubt, if it be your pleasure
To cross the sleeping green between.
It seems you inwardly grin as you pass
Strong eyes, fine limbs, haughty athletes,
Less chanced than you for life,
Bonds to the whims of murder,
Sprawled in the bowels of the earth,
The torn fields of France.
What do you see in our eyes
At the shrieking iron and flame
Hurled through still heavens ?
What quaver - what heart aghast?
Poppies whose roots are in man's veins
Drop, and are ever dropping;
But mine in my ear is safe -
Just a little white with the dust.

Wilfred Owen (1893-1918)

Owen was on the Continent teaching until he visited a hospital for the wounded and then decided, in September, 1915, to return to England and enlist. "I came out in order to help these boys - directly by leading them as well as an officer can; indirectly, by watching their sufferings that I may speak of them as well as a leader can. I have done the first" (October, 1918).

Owen was injured in March 1917 and sent home; he was fit for duty in August, 1918, and returned to the front on 4 November. Just seven days before the Armistice, he was caught in a German machine gun attack and killed. He was twenty-five.

(choose one poem)

(1) Anthem for Doomed Youth

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.

(2) Futility

Wilfred Owen

Move him into the sun -

Gently its touch awoke him once,

At home, whispering of fields unsown.

Always it woke him, even in France,

Until this morning and this snow.

If anything might rouse him now

The kind old sun will know.

Think how it wakes the seeds -

Woke, once, the clays of a cold star.

Are limbs so dear-achieved, are sides

Full-nerved, - still warm, - too hard to stir?

Was it for this the clay grew tall?

- O what made fatuous sunbeams toil

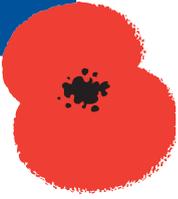
To break earth's sleep at all?

Moment of reflection

It is sometimes difficult to think of something as horrible as war producing beautiful poetry, but the poetry helps us to understand the realities and hardship of war. Although the poetry is often sad it reminds us of what it must have been like to have lived in the conditions that those poets did. Poetry helps us to remember and understand the sacrifices that they made and the horrors that they witnessed, and we are grateful that their words are able to reach us.

Prayer or Poem:

Select any of the poems not already used.



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - The role of individuals and families in Remembrance

In preparation:

- The story of John Pott and his family, featured in The Royal British Legion DVD and this CD Rom.
- Background reading on the Battle of Arnhem, World War Two.

Script

This week some of us are wearing poppies – do you know why we are doing that?

The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance – it was adopted over 90 years ago after the end of World War One. Its purpose was to remind everyone of the terrible impact of the war and of the incredible sacrifice so many had made, fighting and supporting their country in the conflict. Millions had been killed or injured and millions more had their lives changed, through the loss of a family member or loved one, and by the overall impact of the conflict.

The poppy was adopted as a way of raising money for those ex-Service men and their families whose lives had been damaged by the conflict. The poppy was chosen because it was a sturdy, brightly coloured plant and one of the few flowers that grew on the battlefields of Western Europe. For many people, it was a symbol of hope amongst so much horror.

World War One ended at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month (11 November) 1918, also known as Armistice Day. Representatives of The Royal British Legion worked with the government to create a national day of Remembrance so that all those who had died or were injured should never be forgotten. Sadly, the end of World War One did not mean the end of war, and World War Two began only 21 years later. After this second global conflict ended in 1945, both the poppy and 11 November became adopted in the UK, as the official symbol and time that all conflicts, and people affected by conflict, are remembered.

The Royal British Legion still ensures that every year, poppies are made available to anyone wanting to wear one, as a powerful symbol of Remembrance and pride in our Armed Forces, and to support them and their families. The money raised by what has become known as The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal still goes to support serving and ex-Service men and women and their families.

That means that, once a year on 11 November, we all remember the people whose lives are affected by conflict. But some people also remember people and conflict at other times. They do that because of their personal connections and family experiences.

This film clip shows the son and grandson of John Pott, who planned a journey of Remembrance to a place called Arnhem where John Pott fought in 1944. He was injured and captured, and many years later he wrote about his experiences:

Show the film or read an extract of John Potts' letter and account.

The journey to the site where John fought was extremely emotional for his family – it helped them to realise what his experiences meant to him and how it affected his life. Knowing John's story also made his family relate more closely to the events of World War Two and has made them want to encourage people to understand and take part in Remembrance.

They were lucky that John returned, when so many others did not. By remembering John Pott, his family is also remembering all those that John knew, those who fought alongside him, the men in his battalion who

were killed and all those who helped him.

Moment of reflection

At this time of year, we wear a poppy to remember all those whose lives are affected by wars in the past and also in the present. We are reminded that wars are the story of lots of individual people and that those people could be our relatives and friends. We are reminded that wars damage lives and that we can all play a part in working for a peaceful world.

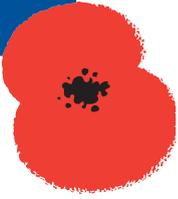
Prayer or poem:

The suggested poem is one by John Jarman, a British poet and mathematician who served in World War Two. He was killed during the Normandy landing in 1944, at the age of 33, leaving a widow and a daughter.

At A War Grave

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.



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - Remembrance Day

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom.
- Screen.

Start

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

Script

November 11 is **always** Remembrance Day.

Each year on the Sunday nearest to 11 November, at 11 o'clock in the morning, a Remembrance service is held at the Cenotaph. The service is to commemorate British and Commonwealth Service men and women who died in the two World Wars and 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.

Option – show pictures of World War One.

The first Remembrance Day took place in 1919, one year after the end of World War One. 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 numbers of women took part, either as ambulance drivers and nurses or in war work, such as factory jobs or working on farms.

Millions of people from both sides were killed in World War One.

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. John McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, was deeply inspired and moved by what he saw. He wrote these verses.

In Flanders Fields
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 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 ended, 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 of the CD Rom.

Now every year on 11 November at 11 o'clock there is a Two Minute Silence. This also takes place on the Sunday nearest to 11 November.

At the service, the following words are usually read out in memory of those who are killed in wars.

Extract from "For the Fallen"
Laurence Binyon

"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."

Men and women still serve in the British Armed Forces today. Remembrance Day is for all those that have served, those still serving and those affected by war.

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. It reminds us how important it is to work for peace.

Prayer or poem:

**Anthem for Doomed Youth
Wilfred Owen**

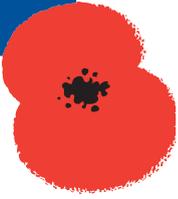
What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
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
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.



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - Remembering the past

In preparation:

- A poppy.
- Film footage from the DVD: The Legion and Remembrance (max 5 mins).

Start

Show the pupils a poppy.

Script

What is this and what is it for?

We wear this poppy to remember people whose lives are affected by wars.

Remembrance events, like some of those you saw in that film clip, and the job of making sure that you all have your poppies to wear, are organised by The Royal British Legion.

The Legion was formed in 1921 and is now over 90 years old.

The Legion was formed all those years ago after a war we now know as World War One. Millions of people across the world fought in that war, including many from Britain. After the war was over, people wanted to remember all those who had been killed or hurt and to help their families.

In some of the places where the war was fought, large areas of buildings, towns and land were destroyed and nothing survived – except one flower. That flower was the poppy and for many people it became a symbol of hope because it survived. People started to wear the poppy to remember those people that had fought in the war, in the hope that nothing like that would ever happen again.

It was the job of The Royal British Legion to make and sell the poppies, and it still does that today.

Rather than wear the poppy all year round, it was decided that it should be worn around the time that World War One ended, to make it feel more important to wear the poppy and remember those killed or injured.

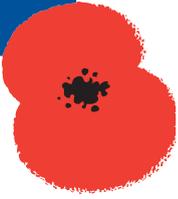
As well as the poppy there would be Remembrance events at that same time of year. Do you know when the particular day is that we wear a poppy and have Remembrance events? 11 November.

Do you think that The Royal British Legion thought it would still be making poppies 90 years later?

No it didn't – but it does, because now the poppy helps us remember not just World War One but all the wars since then. In the next few days, we will learn together a bit more about Remembrance and The Royal British Legion.

Moment of reflection:

The poppy is a symbol of hope and Remembrance. It reminds us of all those people whose lives are affected by wars and it reminds us to think of them, even if we don't know them, and to reflect on how important peace is in all our lives.



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - Helping people

In preparation:

- DVD: film clip on the work of The Royal British Legion today.

Script

Yesterday we learnt a little bit about the poppy.

Can you remember what we learned?

Do you remember the organisation that produces the poppy?

The Royal British Legion – do you know what else it does apart from producing the poppy? The Royal British Legion is a charity and it raises money.

It uses the money it raises to help the men, women and families of all those affected by war.

Let me show you a film....

The people supported in that film were all in need of help. Did you think it would just be soldiers who needed help or children too, people like you?

The Royal British Legion has been helping people for over 90 years as well as producing poppies. Do you think it will need to help people for another 90 years? It might do, as some of the people it helps today are injured fighting in wars and are still young. They might need help for at least another 70 years.

So when you wear a poppy you are not just remembering people but also helping them.

Moment of reflection:

When we wear a poppy or a symbol of Remembrance, it helps and supports those affected by conflict and war. By helping people, we can begin to ensure that conflicts and wars do not have to destroy someone's life. We are also showing that we care.

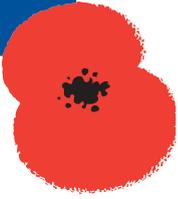
Poem:

Sometimes 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.



Key Stages 1 & 2 Assemblies

Remembrance assemblies - Thinking about the present and the future

In preparation:

- DVD Afghanistan clips: choose from Sean Power's story, Mark Ormerod's or Doctors in Afghanistan (MERT).
- Look at these films in advance and decide which is the most suitable for your age group.
- You could also show one of the film clips showing a recent Remembrance event, events at the Cenotaph or the Two Minute Silence.

Script

Over the last few days we have learnt a little bit about something called Remembrance.

Let's go over what we learnt:

- Why do we wear a poppy?
- What does the poppy stand for – hope and Remembrance.
- When do we wear a poppy? We wear a poppy in November – why is that date important?

That is the date of a war that ended over 90 years ago – that's a long time before any of you were born, even me! But is it the war that we remember? No, it is the people who were affected by war.

And is it only the people from 90 years ago that we remember? No, we remember all the people whose lives have been affected by wars since then.

Who can name some recent wars that people from Britain are being killed and injured in?

Now let me show you some film (show some of the film of people involved with the conflicts in Iraq or Afghanistan).

Do you think those people will easily forget about their experiences? Do you think we should continue to remember what happened to people in Iraq and Afghanistan even when those wars are over?

Just like we still remember World War One, that gave us the symbol of the poppy, we will still remember people affected by war now and for many years to come.

Optional – show film or a Remembrance event.

Or get the children to have a Two Minute Silence and to read a poem or the Exhortation:

Extract from "For the Fallen" Laurence Binyon

*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.*