

# Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a memorial day to honour members of the armed forces who lost their lives due to conflicts. It happens every year and gives people the opportunity to remember those who gave up so much to protect their country.

## The First World War

In 1914, the First World War began. During the First World War, over ten million soldiers from across the world lost their lives. After over four years of battle, it ended in 1918. It is known as the Great War because it had such a huge effect on so many people around the world.

## The First Remembrance Day

The first event of remembrance that happened in Britain took place at 11 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919, which was exactly one year after the First World War had ended. King George V decided that he wanted people to take part in a minute's silence so that everyone could concentrate on remembering those who had lost their lives.

## An Annual Event



Remembrance Day still takes place on 11<sup>th</sup> November. This is the date that an agreement was made to end the First World War. On this day every year at 11 a.m. (the time that the First World War officially ended), people take part in a moment of silence to remember those who have lost their lives during war and conflict. This tribute happens in many countries around the world.

When the First World War had ended, red poppies grew on the fields in France and Belgium. These flowers were mentioned in a famous poem called 'In Flanders Fields'. The poet, John McCrae, was a doctor serving in the First World War. In the poem, he tells of how poppies grew around the graves of those who had died in the battle. Poppies have become a symbol for Remembrance Day; many people actually call it Poppy Day.

## Red Poppies

Each year, people have the opportunity to buy a poppy. This tradition first started in 1921. They come in many forms, such as a paper poppy, a sticker, a badge or a wristband. Some of the money raised from the poppy sales goes to charities that work to help to improve the lives of wounded soldiers and their families.



### Remembrance Sunday

On the closest Sunday to the 11<sup>th</sup> November, many people go to ceremonies and parades held at war memorials, cenotaphs and places of worship.

Lots of people in the UK, including members of the royal family, attend a memorial service at the Cenotaph in London. This is a monument dedicated to the members of the armed forces who have lost their lives during all wars and conflicts.



During the service, the head of the monarchy lays the first poppy wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph. This is followed by people from the armed forces who then lay more wreaths.

# Questions

1. On which date does Remembrance Day take place? Tick one.

- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> May
- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> August
- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> September
- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> November

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ The First World War ended in 1918.
- ☐ The tradition of buying poppies started.
- ☐ The First World War started in 1914.
- ☐ The first Remembrance Day took place.

3. How long did the First World War last?

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4. Why did King George V want people to take part in a minute's silence?

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5. What has become a symbol for Remembrance Day?

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6. Explain why people commemorate Remembrance Day using 25 words or fewer.

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7. Why do you think that a period of silence was chosen as the way for people to pay their respects?

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8. Look at the section **Remembrance Sunday**.  
How does the text suggest that this occasion is very important?

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# Answers

1. On which date does Remembrance Day take place? Tick one.

- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> May
- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> August
- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> September
- ☒ **11<sup>th</sup> November**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** The First World War ended in 1918.
- 4** The tradition of buying poppies started.
- 1** The First World War started in 1914.
- 3** The first Remembrance Day took place.

3. How long did the First World War last?

**The First World War lasted for over four years.**

4. Why did King George V want people to take part in a minute's silence?

**King George V decided that he wanted people to take part in a minute's silence so that everyone could concentrate on remembering those who had lost their lives.**

5. What has become a symbol for Remembrance Day?

**Poppies have become a symbol for Remembrance Day.**

6. Explain why people commemorate Remembrance Day using 25 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: We have Remembrance Day to pay our respects to all the brave members of the armed forces who have died during conflicts.**

7. Why do you think that a period of silence was chosen as the way for people to pay their respects?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this gives people the opportunity to be totally calm and to pay their respects without anything to distract them.**

8. Look at the section **Remembrance Sunday**.

How does the text suggest that this occasion is very important?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the royal family and other important people are attending these events shows that it is a day that is considered to be very special.**

# Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a memorial day to honour members of the armed forces who lost their lives due to conflicts. It was originally a tribute to those who served during the First World War. Now observed every year, the event gives people the opportunity to remember those who sacrificed so much to protect their country.

## The First World War

### The First Remembrance Day

The first official event of remembrance that happened in Britain took place at 11 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 – exactly one year after the First World War had ended. The decision to have one minute's silence was made by King George V so that "...the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead".

In 1914, the First World War started; it ended in 1918. During the First World War, over ten million soldiers from across the world lost their lives; many of them were as young as 16. It is often known as the Great War because it had such a huge effect on so many people around the world.



At the time, newspapers reported on the event by describing the scenes. It was said that tram cars became still, motor cars ceased to cough and fume and people took off their hats to bow their heads. Another report mentioned how an elderly woman wiped her eyes while the man beside her looked pale and stern.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month (11<sup>th</sup> November 1918) is when an important document was signed that formed an agreement to end the First World War.

## An Annual Event

Annually, people pay tribute with a moment of silence on this day to remember those who have lost their lives during war and conflict. This tradition takes place in many countries around the world.

## Wearing Poppies

Each year, people have the opportunity to buy a poppy. This includes items, such as a paper poppy, a sticker, a badge or a wristband. A portion of the money raised from poppy sales goes to charities that work to improve the lives of wounded soldiers and their families.

After the First World War, red poppies grew on the war fields in France and Belgium. These flowers were mentioned in the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. It was written by John McCrae – a doctor serving in the First World War – and it told of how poppies grew around the graves of those who had died in the battle. Poppies have become a symbol through which many people pay their respects on Remembrance Day; many people actually call it Poppy Day.

## Remembrance Sunday

On the Sunday closest to the 11<sup>th</sup> November, many people attend ceremonies and parades held at war memorials, cenotaphs and places of worship.

Lots of people in the UK, including members of the royal family and politicians, attend a memorial service at the Cenotaph in London. The word 'cenotaph' means 'empty tomb' and the Cenotaph is a monument dedicated to the losses suffered during the First World War and all military conflicts that have followed.

During the service, the head of the monarchy lays the first poppy wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph. This is followed by people from the armed forces who then lay more wreaths.

# Questions

1. What is Remembrance Day also sometimes known as? Tick one.

- ☐ First World War Day
- ☐ Remember Day
- ☐ Poppy Day
- ☐ The Great War Day

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ The signing of an agreement happened.
- ☐ The First World War ended.
- ☐ The First World War started.
- ☐ The first official event of remembrance took place.

3. **Annually, people pay tribute with a moment of silence on this day...**

What does the word **annually** mean?

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4. Find and copy one reason why the conflict was known as the Great War.

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5. Name one place where, according to the text, poppies grew after the First World War had ended.

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6. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise why it's important for Remembrance Day to continue in the future.

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7. Explain why you think that poppies can be bought as **a paper poppy, a sticker, a badge or a wristband.**

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8. Newspapers reported that **motor cars ceased to cough and fume...**  
What do you think that this means?

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9. Do you think that the poppy is a good symbol to use for Remembrance Day?  
Explain your answer fully.

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# Answers

1. What is Remembrance Day also sometimes known as? Tick one.

- ☐ First World War Day
- ☐ Remember Day
- ☒ **Poppy Day**
- ☐ The Great War Day

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** The signing of an agreement happened.
- 3** The First World War ended.
- 1** The First World War started.
- 4** The first official event of remembrance took place.

3. **Annually, people pay tribute with a moment of silence on this day...**

What does the word **annually** mean?

**Annually means that it happens every year.**

4. Find and copy one reason why the conflict was known as the Great War

**It had a huge effect on so many people around the world.**

5. Name one place where, according to the text, poppies grew after the First World War had ended.

**Accept one of the following: poppies grew in the war fields of France; poppies grew in the war fields of Belgium; poppies grew around the graves of those who had died in the battle.**

6. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise why it's important for Remembrance Day to continue in the future.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It's important to remember the brave people that risked their lives trying to protect us and, because of their sacrifice, they must never be forgotten.**

7. Explain why you think that poppies can be bought as **a paper poppy, a sticker, a badge or a wristband.**

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that having the poppy in a variety of options is good because different people like different things. Children may like the sticker or wristband while adults may prefer the paper poppy or badge.**

8. Newspapers reported that **motor cars ceased to cough and fume...**  
What do you think that this means?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this means that the cars stopped so that the drivers and passengers could respectfully join in with the minute's silence that was about to happen.**

9. Do you think that the poppy is a good symbol to use for Remembrance Day?  
Explain your answer fully.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the poppy is the perfect symbol to use on Remembrance Day because it grew when the First World War had ended. I believe that this shows hope because those flowers spread across the land like a colourful tribute to all of the soldiers.**

# Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is used to commemorate members of the armed forces who lost their lives due to conflicts. Originally, it was a tribute to those who served during the First World War. The day is now observed annually to allow people the opportunity to pay their respects to all members of the armed forces who have sacrificed so much to protect their country.

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## The First World War

In August 1914, it was announced that a world war had begun. For many reasons, opposing forces – each with their own allies for support – felt that war was necessary. After over four years of devastation and relentless battles, the First World War ceased in 1918. Worldwide, over ten million soldiers tragically lost their lives; many of them were as young as 16. It became known as the Great War because it had a profound effect on so many people across the world.

## The First Remembrance Day

The first official event of remembrance that happened in Britain took place at 11 a.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919 – exactly one year after the First World War had ended. The decision to have one minute's silence was instigated by King George V in the hope that "...the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead".

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At the time, newspapers reported on the event by describing the atmosphere and the reactions of the people. Observations made were that tram cars became still, motor cars ceased to cough and fume and people took off their hats to bow their heads. Another report described how an elderly woman wiped her eyes while the man beside her looked pale and stern. Mighty-limbed horses were also seen to hunch back upon their loads and stop – almost as if they were doing so by choice.



The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month (11<sup>th</sup> November 1918) marks the signing of the Armistice – an agreement to end the First World War.

### Wearing Poppies

After the First World War, red poppies grew from the damaged, battle-weary ground in France and Belgium. These flowers, which were mentioned in the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields', have long been associated with the Great War. The poem was written by John McCrae – a doctor serving in the First World War – and it told of how red poppies grew around the graves of those who had died in the battle. Poppies have become a symbol through which many people pay their respects on Remembrance Day, with many people actually calling it Poppy Day.

Each year, people have the opportunity to buy a poppy. This includes items, such as a paper poppy, a sticker, a badge or a wristband. A crucial reason why people are encouraged to buy a poppy each year is that a portion of the money raised goes to charities that work to improve the lives of wounded soldiers and their families.

### An Annual Event

Annually, people pause and pay tribute with a moment of silence on this day. This tradition takes place in many countries around the world, honouring those who have lost their lives during times of war and conflict.



### Remembrance Sunday

During the service, the head of the monarchy lays the first poppy wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph, followed by representatives of the armed forces who then lay more wreaths.

# Questions

1. When was the first official event of remembrance? Tick one.

- ☐ the day after the First World War had ended
- ☐ the day the Armistice agreement was signed
- ☐ one year after the Second World War had ended
- ☐ one year after the First World War had ended

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

It became known as  
'The Great War'...

red poppies grew from  
the damaged, battle-weary  
ground in France and Belgium.

During the service,...

refer to Remembrance Day as  
Poppy Day.

Many people...

because it had a profound  
effect on so many people  
across the world.

After the First  
World War,...

the head of the monarchy  
lays the first poppy wreath  
at the foot of the Cenotaph.

3. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'?

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4. How is the ground in France and Belgium described following the First World War?

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5. Look at the section **The First Remembrance Day**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **started**.

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6. **Mighty-limbed horses were also seen to hunch back upon their loads and stop – almost as if they were doing so by choice.**

What do you think that this sentence is trying to imply?

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7. What evidence in the text tells us that John McCrae was the ideal person to write about the poppies? Explain your answer.

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8. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what happens now on Remembrance Sunday.

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9. Based on what you have read about newspaper reports at the time, do you think that members of the public were respectful during the minute of silence? Tick one.

☐ yes      ☐ no

Explain your choice.

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10. Imagine that you have been asked to design a new item for sale on Remembrance Day that has a poppy (or the image of a poppy) included. What would it be? Explain why you've chosen to do this.

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# Answers

1. When was the first official event of remembrance? Tick one.

- ☐ the day after the First World War had ended
- ☐ the day the Armistice agreement was signed
- ☐ one year after the Second World War had ended
- ☒ **one year after the First World War had ended**

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

|                                          |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| It became known as<br>'The Great War'... | red poppies grew from<br>the damaged, battle-weary<br>ground in France and Belgium.     |
| During the service,...                   | refer to Remembrance Day as<br>Poppy Day.                                               |
| Many people...                           | because it had a profound<br>effect on so many people<br>across the world.              |
| After the First<br>World War,...         | the head of the monarchy<br>lays the first poppy wreath<br>at the foot of the Cenotaph. |

3. Who wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'?

**John McCrae wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'.**

4. How is the ground in France and Belgium described following the First World War?

**It is described as damaged and battle-weary.**

5. Look at the section **The First Remembrance Day**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as **started**.

**instigated**

6. **Mighty-limbed horses were also seen to hunch back upon their loads and stop – almost as if they were doing so by choice.**

What do you think that this sentence is trying to imply?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this sentence is suggesting that the big, strong horses stopped walking without having to be told to like they knew that it was an important moment.**

7. What evidence in the text tells us that John McCrae was the ideal person to write about the poppies? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: In the text, it tells us that John McCrae was a doctor who served during the First World War. I think that this makes him the ideal person to write about the poppies because he was actually involved in the war so he saw them himself.**

8. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what happens now on Remembrance Sunday.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: On Remembrance Sunday, many people wear poppies and attend ceremonies to honour those who have lost their lives during times of war and conflict.**

9. Based on what you have read about newspaper reports at the time, do you think that members of the public were respectful during the minute of silence? Tick one.

**Accept either 'yes' or 'no' provided that a full explanation is also given, such as: Yes. The newspapers reported that the people, vehicles and even the animals stopped what they were doing, kept quiet and showed compassion and sympathy towards the soldiers who had died. I think that this was respectful.**

10. Imagine that you have been asked to design a new item for sale on Remembrance Day that has a poppy (or the image of a poppy) included. What would it be? Explain why you've chosen to do this.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would choose a necklace with a shiny gold poppy on it. That way, people can see that you're being respectful and paying your respects to those who have died. Also, if people like the design and lots are sold then the wounded members of the armed forces would be able to get more help from the charities.**