Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a **tribute** to members of the **armed forces** who fought and died for their country. This important day happens every year and gives people the opportunity to remember those who worked hard to protect their country.

The First World War

In 1914, a world war started. This was the beginning of the First World War. After just over four years of battle, the First World War ended in 1918.

When Remembrance Day Happens

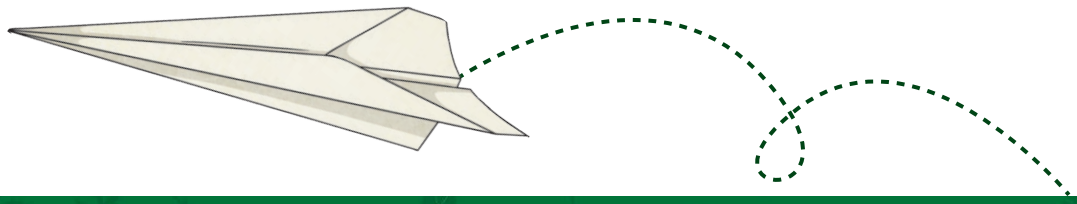
Remembrance Day is on the 11th November because that is the date that the countries involved in the First World War agreed to end it. The time that the war ended was 11 a.m. and many people take part in a moment of silence at this time to remember all those that died. This tribute happens in lots of countries around the world.

Poppies were first sold in 1921 and they have become the main symbol for Remembrance Day. In fact, many people actually call it 'Poppy Day'.

Each year, people have the opportunity to buy a poppy. Some of the money raised from the sale of poppies goes to charities that aim to help to improve the lives of wounded members of the armed forces and their families.

Why People Wear Red Poppies

After the First World War had ended, beautiful, red poppies grew on the battlefields of France and Belgium. That's why people now wear poppies on Remembrance Day.



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The First Remembrance Day in Britain

This is a diary entry that was written on the first Remembrance Day that was held in Britain.

11th November 1919

Today was so emotional. It's been a whole year since the First World War ended so King George V had a really thoughtful idea. He asked the people of Britain to be silent for one minute at 11 a.m. The reason that he chose that exact time is that that's when the war officially ended last year.

As I stood on the street outside my house, the silence that covered the entire area was heartwarming.

At 10:59 a.m., a horse and cart appeared at the end of the road. Suddenly, the cart stopped. It was almost as if the horse wanted to make sure that no more noise would be heard.

Men were staring at the floor holding their caps against their hearts. Women wiped tears from their eyes and even young children stood as still as statues. Everyone knew why they were joined together at that moment.

This day will stay with me forever.

Glossary

armed forces:	A country's army, navy and air force.
tribute:	An act, statement or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect or admiration.

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Questions

1. How long did the First World War last for? Tick one.

   - ○ just over two years
   - ○ just over three years
   - ○ just over four years
   - ○ just over five years

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

   - ☐ The diary entry was written.
   - ☐ The First World War came to an end.
   - ☐ Poppies were first sold.
   - ☐ The First World War began.

3. The author of the diary entry said that **the silence that covered the entire area was heartwarming**. Which of these words best describes how they felt? Tick one.

   - ○ pleased
   - ○ angry
   - ○ confused
   - ○ bored

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

This tribute happens...	and they have become the main symbol for Remembrance Day.
Poppies were first sold in 1921...	the First World War ended in 1918.
It was almost as if the horse wanted...	in lots of countries around the world.
After just over four years of battle,...	to make sure that no more noise would be heard.

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5. Where did beautiful, red poppies grow?

_____

6. Look at the first paragraph of the text.
   Find and copy one word that means the same as **chance**.

_____

7. What evidence can you find in the diary entry that shows that the author agreed with King George V's idea of having a minute's silence?

_____

_____

_____

8. Summarise why you think that Remembrance Day is important using 30 words or fewer.

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