



Roe Green Infant School
Knowledge Organiser
Year 2 History: Remembrance Day



During this unit, we learn about the armistice and why we wear poppies.

What I Already Know

That **war** means an armed fight between countries.

Key Questions

- What is Remembrance Day?
- When was the First World War?
- Who do we remember?
- When is Remembrance Day?

A man named John McCrae wrote a poem about the poppy fields after one of his friends was killed. This poem, 'In Flanders Fields', helped to make poppies the symbol of Remembrance Day.



In Flanders Fields

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.



Why did Remembrance Day begin?

- In 1914, a war began that was bigger than any war the world had ever seen. At the time, it was known as the 'Great War'. Today, we know it as World War 1. It was called a 'world' war because people from all the over world took part and it affected people across the globe.
- The First World War, began on 28th July 1914 and lasted until 11th November 1918.
- Millions of soldiers were killed in the conflict. Millions also were wounded and sent back home, often with injuries they would never recover from.
- At 11am on 11th November 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month), the Great War eventually ended. Members of the German government agreed to sign a ceasefire. This is known as the armistice. The armistice meant that the guns on the battlefield stopped firing and there was silence for the first time in more than 4 years.
- There were great celebrations around the world and people rejoiced that the war was finally over.
- One year later, at 11am on 11th November 1919, a two-minute silence was held to remember those who had died in the war. Memorials were placed in towns and cities, in schools and workplaces to remember those who had died. The tradition of the two-minute silence still takes place today on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.
- Poppies are the symbol of Remembrance Day.



This picture shows the signing of the armistice in the early hours of the morning. They ordered that the fighting should stop at 11am that day.

Who do we remember on Remembrance Day?

- After World War 1, most villages, towns and cities put up war memorials to remember soldiers from that village, town or city who had lost their lives in battle.
- The names of all of the soldiers from that village, town or city who had died in World War 1 were engraved on the war memorials.
- Lots of memorials then also added the names of the soldiers who died in World War 2, when this war ended in 1945.



What happens on Remembrance Day?

- As well as having a two-minute silence on 11th November every year, lots of people attend a special service on the second Sunday of November.
- In London, the National Service of Remembrance is held in Whitehall at the Cenotaph.
- The National Service of Remembrance is a chance for the whole nation to stop and reflect on World War I, World War II and other wars that our soldiers have fought for us.
- King Charles III and other important people lay wreaths of poppies around the Cenotaph in memory of those who have lost their lives.
- Service men and women take part in a parade to commemorate those they have lost. They also lay wreaths.
- There is always a two-minute silence on Remembrance Sunday too. This happens at exactly 11am. Usually, a bugle player will play a song called 'The Last Post' at the end of the silence.



Why is it important to remember?

- The first Remembrance Day took place in 1919. This was one year after the armistice was signed and the war ended.
- Since World War I there have been lots of other wars in which men and women have lost their lives for their countries.
- Men and women in the Armed Forces (army, navy and air force) today still go to war to protect their countries and fight for what they believe in.
- It is important to remember people who have died protecting their country. Service men and women give their lives so that others can live in a peaceful and just world.
- People all over the world commemorate Remembrance Day too, although sometimes they call it a different name and have it on a different day. In America, for example, it is known as Veterans Day. In New Zealand and Australia, they have ANZAC Day in April every year. This stands for **A**ustralia and **N**ew **Z**ealand **A**rm**y** **C**orps.

Key Vocabulary

Armistice	An end to a war.
Cenotaph	The word 'cenotaph' means 'empty tomb' and is a monument to the soldiers who died in the war. The Cenotaph in Whitehall was erected in 1920.
Front line	The military line or part of an army that is closest to the enemy.
Home front	The people who stayed in the UK to help the war effort.
Memorial	A statue built to remind people of a person or an event.
Poppy	A red flower. Poppies grew in the battlefields after the first World War ended. They are worn as a symbol of remembrance
Remembrance	A time that we spend remembering people who have died fighting in wars.

Timeline

28 th July 1914	11 th November 1918	11 th November 1919
World War 1 begins	The armistice is signed, ending the First World War	The first Remembrance Day is held



Useful Websites

Video Clips Linked to Remembrance Day:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-remembrance-day-remembrance-sunday/znkxjsg>
- <https://www.childrenandyoungpeople.co.uk/children/remembrance-animation-kids/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doolcouBKwc>

Home Learning Suggestions

- Visit the Imperial War Museum or the Cenotaph in London.
- Make a poppy using art resources that you have at home.