

Remembrance Day: A History Quest with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day and why we observe the two-minute silence.

Join Ellie the Elephant as she looks back through history. Read the key facts below and answer the questions to test your knowledge about Remembrance Day.

Ellie the Elephant explains: Remembrance Day is held on 11th November each year. It marks the moment the fighting stopped in the First World War in 1918. This was called the Armistice. At 11:00 am, many people observe a two-minute silence to reflect and show gratitude to those who gave their lives in conflicts. The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance because these flowers grew in the fields of France after the fighting ended. It is a time for us to remember, learn, and hope for a peaceful future.

Word bank: Armistice · Poppy · Conflict · Silence · Memorial · Veteran · Gratitude

1. 1. On what date do we observe Remembrance Day each year? (A) 1st January (B) 11th November* (C) 25th December (D) 5th November (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The two-minute silence is held at 12:00 pm. (1 mark)

3. 3. What was the name of the agreement that ended the fighting in 1918? (One word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. Why is the red poppy used as a symbol of remembrance? (A) It is the favourite flower of the King (B) It grew in the fields where fighting took place* (C) It is the brightest flower in the garden (D) It symbolises summer (1 mark)

5. 5. Which animal friend loves history and told us these facts today? (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Remembrance Day is a day to celebrate the start of a new war. (1 mark)

7. 7. For how many minutes do people usually stay silent during the remembrance ceremony? (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the name given to a person who has served in the armed forces? (A) A civilian (B) A tourist (C) A veteran* (D) A student (1 mark)

9. 9. In which year did the First World War fighting stop? (A) 1914 (B) 1945 (C) 1918* (D) 2000 (1 mark)

10. 10. What does the word 'gratitude' mean in the context of Remembrance Day? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a field of red poppies growing in a peaceful meadow. Add a small memorial stone in the centre to show how we honour the past.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the two-minute silence is an effective way to show respect. 2. Compare and contrast how different generations might observe Remembrance Day. 3. Justify why it is important for Year 4 pupils to learn about historical events like the Armistice. 4. What might happen if we forgot the lessons of history? 5. If you were designing a new memorial for your town, what features would you include and why? 6. Research local war memorials in your area; describe one and explain its significance to your community.