

Remembrance Day: A Historical Reflection with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day and reflect on the importance of peace and commemoration.

Ellie the Elephant has been researching the history of Remembrance Day. Use this fact-file to record what you have discovered about why we remember those who served in conflicts. Use the word bank to help you express your thoughts clearly and thoughtfully.

Word bank: Armistice · commemoration · sacrifice · poppy · peace · reflection · gratitude · honour · veteran · silence

1. The Social Studies / History of Remembrance: Explain why 11 November is a significant date in history. What happened at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918? (3 marks)

2. The Symbol of the Poppy: Why has the poppy become the enduring symbol of remembrance? Think about where they grew and what they represent today. (2 marks)

3. Acts of Commemoration: Compare and contrast how different communities might observe the two-minute silence. Why is it important that we share this moment together? (3 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: Justify why it is important for our generation to remember events that happened over a century ago. (3 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen to our understanding of history if we stopped commemorating the sacrifices made by those in the past? (4 marks)

6. Creative Expression: If you were designing a new memorial to represent global peace, what elements would you include and why? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short poem or a formal letter of gratitude to be read at a local memorial service. Your writing should focus on the concept of 'hope for the future' and explain how we can actively promote peace in our own school and community.