

Remembrance Day: A Legacy of Reflection with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day and why we observe the two-minute silence, reflecting on the importance of peace and commemoration.

Ellie the elephant has a magnificent memory and she wants to help you understand the history of Remembrance Day. Below are six statements about the history and traditions of this day. Decide if each statement is True or False. If you mark it as False, you must provide a brief justification to explain why it is incorrect, using your historical knowledge.

Word bank: Armistice · Poppy · November · Silence · Peace · Remembrance

1. 1. Remembrance Day is observed every year on the 11th of November to mark the end of the First World War. True or False? If False, explain why. (2 marks)

2. 2. The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance because it was the only flower that grew in the churned-up mud of the battlefield. True or False? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. 3. The two-minute silence was originally introduced so that people could celebrate the victory with loud music and dancing. True or False? Explain why this is incorrect. (2 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast: Why do we wear poppies today compared to why soldiers might have seen them in the fields during the war? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if we stopped observing periods of silence or reflection for historical events? Justify your opinion. (3 marks)

6. 6. Imagine you are organising a school memorial garden. Explain why it is important to include specific colours or symbols, such as the poppy, in your design. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative scene for a community garden. Include a central, respectful monument and fields of poppies. Think about how you can use colour to convey a mood of peace and solemnity.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Unknown Warrior' buried in Westminster Abbey. Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, explaining why the country chose an anonymous soldier to represent everyone who served.