

A Time for Remembrance

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Remembrance Day and the symbolism of the poppy.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Each year, on the 11th of November, people across the United Kingdom pause for a moment of quiet reflection. This date marks the end of the First World War in 1918, a moment known as the Armistice. At 11:00 am, a two-minute silence is observed to remember the brave individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. During this time, many people wear a bright red poppy. This tradition began because poppies were the first flowers to bloom in the churned-up earth of the battlefields after the fighting ceased. Today, the poppy is a powerful symbol of hope and peace. Ellie, our wise friend, often reminds us that history is not just about dates; it is about the stories of real people. By wearing a poppy or standing in silence, we acknowledge the importance of peace and show our gratitude to those who served. It is a time to reflect on the past while thinking about how we can build a kinder, more harmonious future for everyone, everywhere.

Word bank: armistice · remembrance · symbolism · sacrifice · commemoration · poppy

1. On what date is Remembrance Day observed each year? (1 mark)

2. What happened at 11:00 am on the 11th of November 1918? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the poppy was chosen as the symbol for Remembrance Day? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author suggests that history is 'not just about dates'. (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for communities to hold a two-minute silence together? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful garden scene featuring a single red poppy growing in a quiet, green field. Add a small memorial bench nearby to represent a place of reflection.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the poppy as a symbol of nature and a symbol of history. Write a short paragraph explaining why symbols are important to how we remember the past. What might happen to our collective memory if we stopped marking Remembrance Day altogether?