

Remembrance Day: Honouring the Past with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day and the symbolism behind the poppy, whilst developing critical thinking skills regarding historical commemoration.

Ellie the elephant has been researching the history of Remembrance Day. Use the word bank to fill in the blanks in the statements below, then complete the higher-order thinking questions to demonstrate your deeper understanding of this historical event.

Word bank: Armistice · 11th November · poppy · 1918 · sacrifice · commemorate · silence

1. The First World War officially ended on _____ at 11:00 am, which is why we observe a two-minute _____ at that exact time every year. (2 marks)

2. The _____ is a symbol of remembrance because it was one of the first flowers to grow in the churned-up earth of the battlefields. (1 mark)

3. Explain why it is important for modern society to continue to 'commemorate' events that happened over a century ago. How does this impact our understanding of peace today? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the way a nation remembers a conflict through a public ceremony versus how an individual family might remember a relative who served. What are the differences in their perspectives? (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is the poppy a symbol of sadness, or a symbol of hope? Use evidence from the historical context to support your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if societies stopped marking Remembrance Day? Predict the potential consequences for how future generations perceive the cost of war. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative wreath or a field of poppies. In the centre, write a short, original poem (3-4 lines) about peace, inspired by Leo the Lion's love for poetry.



Extension challenge: Research a local war memorial in your town or city. If you were commissioned to design a new memorial for your school, what symbols would you include to represent 'peace' and 'remembrance', and why did you choose them?