

Remembrance Day: Reflecting on History with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day, the importance of the poppy as a symbol, and the impact of the World Wars on society.

Read each question carefully and use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Consider the perspectives of those who lived through the conflicts and why we continue to observe this tradition today.

Ellie the elephant has been visiting the local archives to study the events of 11th November 1918. On this day, the Armistice was signed, ending the fighting in the First World War. Since then, the nation has paused at 11:00 am to remember those who served and those who gave their lives in all conflicts. The red poppy, which grew in the churned-up soil of the battlefields, has become the enduring symbol of this remembrance.

Word bank: Armistice · Commemoration · Sacrifice · Conflict · Poppy · Gratitude · Legacy · Treaty

1. Explain why the date 11th November was chosen for Remembrance Day. What does the term 'Armistice' mean in this context? (2 marks)

2. Why do you think the poppy became the chosen symbol for remembrance? Consider the environment of the battlefields described by Ellie. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how we commemorate Remembrance Day in schools today versus how it might have been observed immediately after the First World War. (3 marks)

4. Justify why it is important for modern society to maintain the tradition of the two-minute silence, even though the events took place many decades ago. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the memory of these historical events if we stopped teaching about Remembrance Day in schools? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. If you were designing a new memorial to represent peace, what symbols would you include and why? Justify your artistic choices. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative scene featuring a poppy field in the foreground, with a quiet, peaceful landscape in the background to symbolise the hope for future harmony.



Extension challenge: Write a short, reflective poem in the style of Leo the lion about the meaning of peace. Use at least four words from the word bank and ensure your poem captures the mood of gratitude and solemn reflection.