

Remembrance Day: Honouring the Past

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day and why we observe the two-minute silence.

Read the text carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Ensure your answers are supported by the text and your own historical understanding.

Remembrance Day, observed on 11th November each year, is a poignant time for reflection. It marks the anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the fighting in the First World War in 1918. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, many people across the United Kingdom pause for a two-minute silence. This solemn tradition allows us to honour the bravery of those who served in conflicts and to remember the immense sacrifice made by so many to secure our freedom. Ellie, our history-loving elephant, often reminds us that remembrance is not just about looking back at dates, but about understanding the human stories behind them. Wearing a poppy—a symbol of hope and resilience that grew on the scarred battlefields—is a gesture of collective gratitude. Whether we attend a local ceremony or observe the silence privately, we acknowledge the cost of peace. By teaching the next generation about these events, we ensure that the lessons learned from history are never forgotten, fostering a commitment to building a more peaceful world for the future.

Word bank: Armistice · commemoration · sacrifice · significance · gratitude · tribute · conflict

1. Identify the exact date and time that the Armistice is remembered annually. (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, what does the poppy symbolise? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the author mentions that remembrance is about 'the human stories behind them' rather than just dates? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the two-minute silence is described as a 'solemn' tradition in the context of the text. (3 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for Year 5 pupils to learn about Remembrance Day, even though these events happened over a century ago. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful scene that represents the concept of remembrance. Think about symbols of hope, nature, and reflection, perhaps including a field of poppies or a quiet memorial.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the way a community remembers a historic event versus how an individual might remember a personal loss. Write a short, thoughtful poem inspired by Leo the Lion about the importance of peace in our modern world.