

Remembrance Day: Honouring the Past

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day, the symbolism behind the poppy, and the importance of collective reflection in British society.

Read each flashcard carefully. The front of the card features a key term or question, and the back provides the explanation. Use these to test your knowledge of why we commemorate this day.

What is the significance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month?

This marks the exact time in 1918 when the Armistice was signed, ending the fighting in the First World War.

Why is the poppy used as a symbol of Remembrance?

It represents the resilient wildflowers that bloomed on the churned-up battlefields of the Western Front, symbolising hope and the memory of those lost.

What is the meaning of the word 'Armistice'?

An agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time; a truce.

Who is Leo the Lion trying to honour during the two-minute silence?

Leo is showing respect for the brave individuals who sacrificed their lives in service of their country during various global conflicts.

Define the purpose of a Cenotaph.

A 'cenotaph' is an 'empty tomb'. It is a war memorial erected to honour people who are buried elsewhere, serving as a focal point for national mourning.

Explain the significance of the two-minute silence.

It provides a dedicated period for quiet reflection and gratitude, allowing people to pause their busy lives to remember the cost of peace.

What does 'sacrifice' mean in the context of Remembrance?

It refers to the selfless act of giving up one's life or personal safety for the benefit of others and the protection of freedom.

Compare and contrast: How does a local war memorial differ from a national one?

A local memorial usually lists the names of people from a specific village or town, making the loss feel very personal to a community, whereas a national memorial represents the collective loss of the whole country.

What might happen if we stopped observing Remembrance Day?

We risk forgetting the lessons of history, losing our appreciation for the peace we enjoy today, and failing to honour the courage of past generations.

Justify why it is important for young people to participate in Remembrance activities.

Participation ensures that the stories of history are passed down, fostering empathy, gratitude, and a commitment to building a peaceful future.

Nova the Owl asks: Is Remembrance only about looking back at the past?

No, it is also about reflecting on the present and committing ourselves to building a world where conflict is resolved through dialogue rather than war.

What is the role of the 'Last Post' bugle call?

It is a traditional musical tribute played at military funerals and Remembrance services to signal that a soldier's duty is done and they may rest in peace.