

Remembrance Day: Reflecting on Peace and Sacrifice

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day, the importance of collective reflection, and the symbolism of the poppy in promoting global peace.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge and your ability to empathise with the past to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers.

Remembrance Day is observed on the 11th of November each year. It marks the day in 1918 when the Armistice was signed, ending the fighting in the First World War. At 11:00 am, the nation observes a two-minute silence to honour those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts. The red poppy is worn as a sign of remembrance and hope for a peaceful future, inspired by the flowers that grew on the battlefields of the Western Front.

Word bank: Armistice · Commemoration · Sacrifice · Reflect · Solidarity · Symbolism · Conflict · Legacy

1. Explain why the two-minute silence is held at 11:00 am on the 11th of November. What is the purpose of this collective act of quiet reflection? (2 marks)

2. The red poppy is a powerful symbol. Describe what it represents in the context of Remembrance Day and why people choose to wear one. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how we might show 'remembrance' in a school setting versus how it is observed at a national monument like the Cenotaph. Why do these differences exist? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Is it more important to focus on the past sacrifices made by soldiers, or to focus on the future goal of world peace? Can we do both? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if societies stopped marking Remembrance Day? Discuss the potential impact on future generations and their understanding of history. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative scene featuring a field of poppies. Include a symbol of peace, such as a dove or a calm horizon, to represent the hope for a future without conflict.



Extension challenge: Leo the Lion is writing a poem for a Remembrance assembly. Write a four-line stanza that uses rich, emotive language to describe the importance of peace. Then, explain why you chose the specific words in your poem to convey a message of hope.