Remembering with Ellie: The History of Remembrance Day

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills whilst learning about the historical significance and traditions of Remembrance Day.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Ellie the elephant, who loves history, often spends time in November teaching her friends about the importance of Remembrance Day. Each year, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the nation pauses for a two-minute silence. This date marks the end of the First World War in 1918. It is a time to remember the brave people who served in conflicts and gave their lives to protect others.

Many people choose to wear a bright red poppy, a symbol that grew in the fields of Flanders after the fighting had finished. The vivid colour serves as a reminder of the sacrifice made by soldiers. Often, people buy these poppies for a small donation, such as £1 or £2, to support charities that help veterans and their families. At memorials across the country, wreaths are laid to show respect. By sharing these stories, Ellie explains that we do not just remember the past; we also hope for a future of peace and kindness. It is a sombre but important day for us all to reflect together.

Word bank: Armistice · remembrance · tribute · poppy · sacrifice · commemorate · conflict

1. According to the text, what specific time and date does the two-minute silence take place? (2 marks)

2. Why do people make a donation when they receive a poppy? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author use the word 'sombre' to describe Remembrance Day? (2 marks)

4. What does the poppy represent, and why might it be a suitable symbol for this event? (3 marks)

5. Why is it important for children in Year 5 to learn about historical events like Remembrance Day? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful garden scene featuring a single red poppy in the foreground, with a silhouette of a memorial statue in the background under a soft, cloudy sky.

Extension challenge: Research a local war memorial in your town or city. Find out when it was built and what names are inscribed on it. Write a short paragraph explaining why local communities choose to build these monuments.