Remembrance Day: Honouring the Past

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Remembrance Day, the importance of the poppy as a symbol, and how we commemorate those who served in the World Wars.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of 20th-century history to provide clear, detailed answers. Reflect on the importance of peace and historical memory.

Ellie the elephant has a wonderful memory and loves sharing stories from the past. She often tells her friends about the importance of 11 November. This day marks the end of the First World War and serves as a time for the nation to remember the courage and sacrifice of those who lived through the world wars and subsequent conflicts. Through symbols like the poppy and the act of silence, we ensure that the stories of the past are never forgotten.

Word bank: Armistice · Commemoration · Conflict · Sacrifice · Poppy · Trench · Two-minute silence · Veteran

1. Explain why 11 November is a significant date in British history. What event happened at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918? (2 marks)

2. Why is the poppy used as a symbol of Remembrance? Consider where these flowers grew during the First World War. (2 marks)

3. Describe the purpose of the 'two-minute silence'. Why do you think it is important for a whole nation to be silent at the same time? (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is helping his school organise a memorial display. They have a budget of £25.00 to buy wreaths and pins to raise money for veterans' charities. If one wreath costs £8.50 and a pin costs £1.50, how many pins can they buy if they purchase two wreaths? (3 marks)

5. How can we show respect for those who served in wars in our modern, everyday lives? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative scene featuring a field of poppies. Include a small memorial plaque or a cenotaph in the background to show how we honour the past.

Extension challenge: Write a short, four-line poem in the style of Leo the lion about the importance of peace and remembering the bravery of those who came before us.