

November is the time of the year when we wear a red poppy in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for us during wars. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice, on 11th November 1918, to signal the end of World War One. At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. Remembrance Day is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts. At one time the day was known as Armistice Day and was renamed Remembrance Day after the Second World War.



It is held on the second Sunday in November, which is usually the Sunday nearest to 11 November. Special services are held at war memorials and churches all over Britain. A national ceremony takes place at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. The Queen lays the first wreath at the Cenotaph. Wreaths are laid beside war memorials by companies, clubs and societies. People also leave small wooden crosses by the memorials in remembrance of a family member who died in war. The "Last Post" is traditionally played to introduce the two minute silence in Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is usually played on a bugle (a small trumpet).

Flanders is the name of the whole western part of Belgium. It saw some of the most concentrated and bloodiest fighting of the First World War. There was complete devastation. Buildings, roads, trees and natural life simply disappeared. Where once there were homes and farms there was now a sea of mud - a grave for the dead where men still lived and fought. Only one other living thing survived. The poppy flowering each year with the coming of the warm weather, brought life, hope, colour and reassurance to those still fighting. Poppies only flower in turned over soil. Their seeds can lay in the ground for years without germinating, and only grow after the ground has been disturbed.

Remembrance Day is also known as Poppy Day, because it is traditional to wear an artificial poppy. They are sold by the Royal British Legion, a charity dedicated to helping war veterans. Some people prefer to wear a poppy on the left over their hearts. However, the general rule is to wear left for men because that's where medals go and right for women because that's where a widow would wear her husband's medals. The first actual Poppy Day was held in Britain on November 11th, 1921 and was a national success raising £106,000. Since then, during every November, we keep the memory alive by wearing a poppy to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives during war.

1. When did World War one end?
2. What fell silent at the end of the war **and** how long had the fighting lasted?
3. When was Armistice Day renamed?
4. Where does the national ceremony take place?
5. What is traditionally played to introduce the start of a service **and** on what instrument?
6. What is the area called that suffered the worst of the fighting in WW1?
7. What was the only surviving thing in the sea of mud of the battle grounds?
8. What did the poppy bring to those fighting on the battle grounds?
9. Where should a poppy be worn?
10. Give details of the first Poppy Day.