

Remembrance Day

By **Sarah Gudgeon**

1. Read

The First World War ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. This war had been fought in the trenches and the close combat conditions meant that many of the soldiers suffered horrific deaths. The victory of British and Allied forces over the enemy is celebrated every year on the 11th of November at 11 am with two minutes silence but more importantly, in those two minutes silence we remember the fallen soldiers who gave their lives for their country.

There are Remembrance Day services across the UK and people lay poppy wreaths at war memorials. People begin wearing their poppies at the beginning of the month and the money raised from the sale of these poppies goes to help injured servicemen and their families. But why poppies you might ask? Because Flanders Fields in Belgium, with its beautiful bright red poppies, was where more than 1 million soldiers died during the four year conflict.

John McRae wrote the now famous Flanders Fields poem in 1915 and the poppies mentioned here have since become symbolic of the men who died on the battlefield. This poem is read out every year at Remembrance Day ceremonies in the UK and wearing your poppy is a sign of respect for the soldiers who died and acknowledgement of and gratitude for their sacrifice. Wearing a poppy does not mean that you support war, it means that you remember.



2. Complete the poem with the words below.

In Flanders Fields - John McRae

In Flanders fields the poppies _____

Between the crosses, row on _____

That mark our place; and in the _____

The larks, still bravely singing, _____

Scarce heard amid the guns _____.

row below sky blow fly

3. Do some more online research. Find another First World War poem, write the first verse down here and then discuss it with a partner.



Teacher's Notes

2. In Flanders Fields - John McRae

*In Flanders fields the poppies **blow***

*Between the crosses, row on **row,***

*That mark our place; and in the **sky***

*The larks, still bravely singing, **fly***

*Scarce heard amid the guns **below.***

3. Examples of First World War poems are available here:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/what-to-read/remembrance-day-poems/>

Some titles:

For the Fallen - Laurence Binyon

The Soldier - Rupert Brooke

Dulce et Decorum Est - Wilfred Owen