

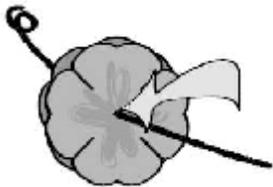
No. 42005

Remembrance Day Poppies



Never forget the sacrifices of fallen heroes and veterans with this commemorative craft! Learn about the significance of Remembrance Day while creating an honorary tribute to those who have sacrificed so much. The perfect group activity for decorating classrooms or gymnasiums during Remembrance Day ceremonies. Teach students about the historical significance of World War I, and how around the world, the poppy has remained an important symbol of remembrance throughout the years.

This craft features 100 petal cutouts. Use one or two cutouts to make one poppy. Each child can make two poppies to decorate a card cross or wreath. Note: The Remembrance Day Poppies craft cannot be worn. The poppy craft is for decoration



only. Overlay two tissue poppies so that the centers align. Punch the end of a green chenille stem through the center of the tissues and secure with a loop.

Add a tissue leaf to the end of the chenille stem with tape. Glue on the black center circle to complete the flower.

Decorate a homemade cross or wreath cutout with the finished flowers. You can make the cross or wreath from cardstock. To make a wreath, trace a large bowl onto a sheet of cardstock. Trace a smaller bowl or jar lid for the inner circle of the wreath. Make several copies of the wreath tracing. Each tracing should be large enough to have at least 6-8 poppies attached to it. Cut out the center circle.

Students can color the wreath card with markers or crayon. Use colors such as red for the red poppy or green for the foliage to color in the white spaces of the wreath and make a backdrop for the poppies. Use a hole punch to make a hole at the top of the wreath so that it can be hung from a wall or from a door.

Paste the bottom of each poppy onto the wreath. Before pasting the poppy, curl in the end of the green chenille stem.

To make a cross, you will need a sheet of Bristol board. Cut out two large rectangles from the paper. These rectangles will form the cross. Make one rectangle longer than the other. Our suggested dimensions for the rectangles are:

For the larger rectangle: 17 x 3.5" (43 x 9 cm).

For the smaller rectangle: 11 x 3.5" (28 x 9 cm).

Place the large rectangle on a flat surface and arrange it vertically. Position the smaller rectangle perpendicular to the top of the large rectangle. Bring the smaller rectangle down just above the middle of the cross and secure with tape or glue.

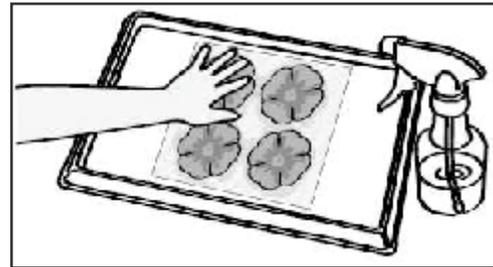
Once the cross is dry, paste the poppy flowers onto the cross.

Note: You do not need to color in the cross; it is symbolically presented in white as a tribute to our fallen heroes.



Older students can create dimensional flowers to attach to the cross or wreath and make them appear lifelike. To make your poppies lifelike, you will need crayons (preferably in red

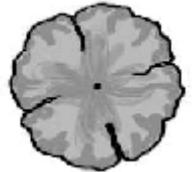
to match the color of the poppy tissue) and a damp paper towel. Before assembling the poppy, lay both sets of petals out flat. Start from the center of the poppy and use the crayon to draw radiating lines out towards the edge. Curve the lines to give the appearance of depth to your flowers.



Dampen a paper towel and place onto a flat surface. Set the poppies on top of the damp paper towel and gently press down to allow the tissue to soak up the water. Place damp petals onto an upside down plastic cup to help the tissue dry into a flower shape.

The crayon wax repels the water from the tissue, causing it to create ripples in the paper.

Alternatively, younger children can try simply dampening the tissue and leaving it to dry on a flat surface so that it acquires a crinkly appearance.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- Learn about the importance of Remembrance Day around the world
- Use multiple techniques and media to make realistic poppies
- Develop fine motor skills
- Explore history and gain an appreciation for the tradition of remembrance
- Discover John McCrae's famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'
- Exercise writing skills and write a poem or story about Remembrance Day
- Assemble a group craft
- Learn about the symbolism of the poppy

Remembrance Day falls on November 11 each year or on the closest Sunday. Remembrance Day marks the day that World War I ended, which officially occurred on November 11, 1918. World War I began on August 4, 1914 and was the first time that over 100 of the world's nations took up arms against one another. World War I was mostly fought in Europe.

Immense casualties on both sides eventually led to the surrender of Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire to the countries united as the League of

Nations. The League of Nations included many major European countries such as France and England and other nations such as Canada and the United States. The fighting officially terminated on November 11, 1918.

At the start of the first world war, American president Woodrow Wilson was credited with saying that this was the “war to end all wars.” Within just over a decade, the second World War broke out, causing more destruction than the previous world war.

During the first world war, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae served as a physician on the battlefield of Ypres in Belgium. He was one of the thousands of brave servicepeople responsible for healing the waves of wounded soldiers who were brought back from the front lines of the battlefield. He was a poet and a writer and documented his experiences in horrifying detail.

After his best friend was killed on the battlefield, McCrae wrote a poem about the terrors of war. This poem was sent to a magazine called Punch and was published in 1915. It was published with the author’s name as anonymous but McCrae was very quickly discovered after the poem gained popularity in North America and England. John McCrae died from pneumonia in 1918 after dedicating his life to the health and safety of others.

The poem was entitled ‘In Flanders Fields.’ Nowadays it is regularly read at Remembrance Day ceremonies across the UK and North America as a tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Encourage students to read out parts of the poem below and write a report or draw an illustration about what that particular part means to them. Students can learn to recite the poem for Remembrance Day gatherings or assemblies.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

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.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The red poppy is a popular symbol worn to remember those who died during conflicts occurring since World War I to the present. Long before John McCrae’s poem, however, during other instances of conflict throughout the world, it was often noted that the red poppies grew wherever the aftermath of bloody battles occurred.

As it turns out, when cannons were fired over large clearings or fields, the contents of the gunpowder would coat the soil with lime. Lime is one of the chief ingredients needed to grow poppies and immediately after a battle occurred, the number of poppies in a field would multiply substantially.

Poppy fields were so striking that it seemed as if the blood of those who died on the battlefield was draped over the land. During World War I, poppies grew among the dead on the battlefield, adding to their mythic appearance as a flower of heroes.

After the cease fire was ordered in 1918, Moina Michael, a professor and humanitarian who taught at the University of Georgia, began to wear the poppy in honor of the fallen soldiers. It is said that the poem by John McCrae was a great inspiration for her decision to wear the poppy. In addition, she became aware of the plight of disabled servicemen who attended her classes once the war was over.

Moina Michael started a tradition by crafting several silk poppies then distributing them to people during the remembrance time around November 11. By wearing a poppy and donating a self-determined sum of money to the war veterans, people could show their emotional, financial and physical support for the cause. This spread overseas to France and England where mass production of the poppies brought about increased support and recognition for Remembrance Day.

To wear a poppy properly on Remembrance Day, it is considered polite and formal to wear it over your heart or on the left side of your chest. This is seen as a constant salute of respect to the sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.

You can foster your students’ appreciation for the struggle against war and oppression by reading stories aloud and reciting other famous poems about the first and second world wars.

Students can write exploratory reports about their own families’ history and particularly about events that may have occurred around the time of the first or second world war. Ask students to talk to their parents or grandparents about their families’ experiences during that time. Discuss these events with other students and build timelines to precisely document when and where these events happened.

Record information and then compile a presentation board with photocopied pictures of the places where their family members lived or worked in the early 1900s. Each student can choose one story or event to talk about during their presentation periods. Remembrance Day is not just for the veterans of World War I or World War II. Invite veterans of other wars into your class and give them the chance to talk about their experiences.

Remembrance Day Poppies will help students consider the importance of remembering the wars of the past so that they may never occur again. Build new hopes for the future by discussing ways to help peace flourish. Ask children to discuss their opinions with their peers on how to spread peace throughout the world and let them record their thoughts on paper. Ask them to present their ideas on peace during your school’s Remembrance Day assembly.