

# Remembrance Day / Veterans Day

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When is Remembrance Day / Veterans Day?
2. Why was this an important day in history?
3. What do citizens do to honour veterans and those who serve in the military on this day?
4. What symbols represent Remembrance Day / Veterans Day?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. veteran      | a) joined together  |
| _____ 2. anniversary  | b) to flower  |
| _____ 3. treaty       | c) not natural, made by man                               |
| _____ 4. weapon       | d) a circle of flowers or plants                          |
| _____ 5. rejoice      | e) to put in the ground                                   |
| _____ 6. bitter       | f) yearly return of the date of an event                  |
| _____ 7. allied       | g) people marching with music, costumes, etc.             |
| _____ 8. sacrifice    | h) an agreement between countries                         |
| _____ 9. soldier      | i) a place where soldiers fight                           |
| _____ 10. bury        | j) something used in fighting, such as a gun, knife, etc. |
| _____ 11. parade      | k) very unpleasant, filled with anger or sadness          |
| _____ 12. wreath      | l) a person who once served as a soldier                  |
| _____ 13. artificial  | m) giving up something of value for a special purpose     |
| _____ 14. bloom       | n) to feel great happiness                                |
| _____ 15. battlefield | o) a member of an army                                    |



## Reading

1. November 11 is celebrated as a day of remembrance in many places around the world. In some countries, it is known as Armistice Day; in others, it is referred to as Remembrance Day or Poppy Day; and in the United States, it is called **Veterans Day**.
2. This day is the **anniversary** of the peace **treaty** or armistice that was signed by the Allied forces and the Germans at the end of World War I. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an order was given for all shooting to stop. Soldiers laid down their **weapons** and people all over the world **rejoiced**. After four long years of **bitter** fighting, "the war to end all wars" was finally over. In many countries, people went out into the streets, closed their businesses, sang songs, blew whistles and horns, and celebrated.
3. Shortly after this, many former **allied** nations set aside November 11 as a day to remember the **sacrifices** that men and women had made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. Armistice Day was created in the United Kingdom by King George V on November 7, 1919. In 1921, an unknown First World War **soldier** was **buried** in Arlington National Cemetery in the United States. Similar ceremonies occurred in England and France where unknown soldiers were buried in each nation's highest place of honour, Westminster Abbey and the Arc de Triomphe. These memorial services, which all took place on November 11, gave universal recognition to Armistice Day.
4. After World War II, the name of this day was changed to Veterans Day in the United States and to Remembrance Day in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Armistice Day remains an official holiday in both Belgium and France.
5. On November 11 in many parts of the world today, veterans march in **parades**, and politicians and others give speeches of thanks for the peace that was won. People gather together in assemblies to honour all the men and women who have served and continue to serve their countries. **Wreaths** and flowers are placed on graves and war monuments. In many services, a sad song called "Last Post" is played by a bugler or trumpeter. Then a moment of silence takes place at 11:00 am to remember all those who died in World War I, World War II, and other wars.
6. In many countries, the poppy has become a recognized symbol of November 11. The poppy is a bright red wildflower that **bloomed** across some of the worst **battlefields** of World War I, and the poppy's red colour came to represent the bloodshed of trench warfare. Veterans groups in many different countries sell **artificial** poppies to help raise money for veteran support groups.
7. The expression "Lest We Forget" has also become connected with November 11. After the First World War, people promised never to forget the horror of war, and so, still today, November 11 remains a day of historic significance across the globe. It is a day where people gather together and turn their thoughts toward the importance of peace and the avoidance of future wars.





## Comprehension

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner.  
Then write the answers below or in your notebook if you need more room.  
Use full sentences.

1. What is the significance of November 11?

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2. What are some of the different names used to refer to November 11?

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3. How did people celebrate when World War I ended?

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4. What was the expression used to describe World War I?

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5. Where were the unknown soldiers buried in England, France, and the United States?

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6. In what ways do people celebrate November 11 nowadays?

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7. Why is the poppy a symbol of November 11?

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8. Why do veterans groups sell artificial poppies?

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9. What was a common type of fighting in World War I?

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10. What is the significance of the expression "Lest We Forget"?

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## Vocabulary Review

### A. Choose the Closest Meaning

Choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentences.

1. Now Armistice Day is referred to as Veterans Day in the United States.
  - a) is remembered as
  - b) is called
  - c) occurs on
2. November 11 is the day the armistice was signed at the end of World War I.
  - a) cease-fire
  - b) anniversary
  - c) battle
3. The memorial services held in many countries after the war gave universal recognition to Armistice Day.
  - a) religion
  - b) parades
  - c) worldwide awareness or knowledge
4. Wreaths and flowers are placed on graves and war monuments.
  - a) statues
  - b) buildings
  - c) places to bury dead people
5. The red colour of the poppy came to represent the bloodshed of trench warfare.
  - a) symbolize
  - b) what they wanted most
  - c) the least important

### B. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct word from the vocabulary on page 1 to complete the following sentences.

1. I always forget to water my plants. Maybe I should buy some \_\_\_\_\_ ones.
2. Many people hang a \_\_\_\_\_ of tree branches on their doors at Christmastime.
3. We are going to have a party for our parents next week to celebrate their \_\_\_\_\_.
4. NAFTA is the name of a \_\_\_\_\_ signed by Mexico, Canada, and the United States.
5. When his dog died, he \_\_\_\_\_ it in the backyard.
6. My dance group handed out poppies at the Remembrance Day \_\_\_\_\_.



## Pair Work (Student A)

### A. Reading

You and your partner each have a short reading about November 11.  
Read your article and tell your partner about the information.

#### **Remembrance Day – Canada: The Significance of the Poppy**

The poppy has become the most recognized symbol of November 11 in Canada and other British Commonwealth countries, as well as in the United States. The poppy owes its significance to a famous war poem written by a Canadian doctor named John McCrae. McCrae was born in Guelph, Ontario, and later practised medicine in Montreal. During World War I, he served as a military doctor with the Canadian army in Belgium and was greatly influenced by the terrible suffering he saw. In 1915, just after burying a young friend, and in a mood of deep sadness, McCrae wrote “In Flanders Fields,” which begins with the lines:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row*

McCrae’s poem became one of the most famous and most memorable war poems ever written. Still today, it is always recited in Remembrance Day services across Canada. Up until 1996, artificial poppies were made and sold by disabled Canadian veterans. Although the veterans no longer make the poppies, Canadians of all ages continue the tradition of wearing a poppy for two weeks prior to November 11. At 11:00 am on the 11th day of the 11th month, the poppy is removed and, if possible, placed on the grave of a soldier.



## Pair Work (Student B)

### A. Reading

You and your partner each have a short reading about November 11.  
Read your article and tell your partner about the information.

#### **Veterans Day – United States:**

November 11 used to be known in the United States as Armistice Day. In November of 1919, one year after the fighting of the First World War had ended, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day. He stated that this would be a day to show pride in the heroism of those who had died in service to their country, as well as gratitude for their victory. The idea was for people to stop working for a two-minute period beginning at 11:00 am. The day was also to be marked by parades and public services. In 1926, Armistice Day received its official name through a resolution of Congress. It became a national holiday 12 years later in 1938, twenty years after World War I had ended.

Soon after this, people began to realize that the previous war would not be the last. World War II began in 1939 and many nations from around the world became involved. After World War II and the Korean War had ended, leaders of veterans groups wanted November 11 to become a day to honour all those who had fought in various wars, not just in the First World War. Many new veterans had no connection to the armistice of World War I. Therefore, on May 24, 1954, through an act of the US Congress, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day in honour of all servicemen and servicewomen of all America's wars.



## Pair Work cont.

### B. Comprehension

Work together to complete the following questions based on your reading and your partner's reading. Write your answers in your notebooks.

1. Why has the poppy become the symbol of November 11?
2. What is the name of the war poem written by John McCrae?
3. Where was McCrae born?
4. What was McCrae's occupation?
5. When did he write his famous poem?
6. How was McCrae feeling when he wrote this poem?
7. Who used to make the artificial poppies in Canada?
8. How long before November 11 do Canadians start to wear the poppy?
9. Who proclaimed the first Armistice Day in the United States?
10. What did he want Americans to show pride in?
11. What did he want Americans to show gratitude for?
12. What were people supposed to do at 11:00 am on November 11 in the US?
13. When did the American Congress give Armistice Day its official name?
14. When was Armistice Day made a national holiday?
15. When was the name Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day?
16. Why was the name changed?



## Vocabulary, Idioms & Expressions

### A. Reference

Word/Phrase		Definition	Example
<b>victory</b>	<i>noun</i>	success in a war, game, or contest	There were many parades after the war to celebrate the <b>victory</b> .
<b>hero</b>	<i>noun</i>	a person respected for bravery or notable character	The soldier who fought in World War I was a <b>hero</b> .
<b>heroism</b>	<i>noun</i>	courage, bravery, quality of being a hero	November 11 is a day to remember the <b>heroism</b> of all the soldiers.
<b>cemetery</b>	<i>noun</i>	a graveyard, a place to bury the dead	Every Sunday they visit the <b>cemetery</b> where their parents are buried.
<b>arms</b>	<i>noun, plural</i>	weapons	The soldiers had plenty of <b>arms</b> when they went into battle.
<b>arms race</b>	<i>expression</i>	competition among nations for military strength	There are now international treaties that try to prevent a further <b>arms race</b> .
<b>lay down one's arms</b>	<i>expression</i>	to stop fighting	They ordered the soldiers to <b>lay down their arms</b> on November 11, 1918.
<b>be up in arms</b>	<i>idiom</i>	to be angry about, to protest strongly	Many people <b>were up in arms</b> when the government announced the new taxes.
<b>on the warpath</b>	<i>idiom</i>	to be very angry about something	I hope I don't see the boss today. I heard that he's <b>on the warpath</b> .







## Vocabulary, Idioms & Expressions cont.

### A. Reference cont.

Word/Phrase		Definition	Example
<b>a fighting chance</b>	<i>idiom</i>	a fair chance, a good chance	If he can get an interview, he will have <b>a fighting chance</b> of getting the job.
<b>fight tooth and nail</b>	<i>idiom</i>	to fight very hard	The women <b>fought tooth and nail</b> to get the right to vote.
<b>fight fire with fire</b>	<i>idiom</i>	to fight using the same methods as your opponent	If they are going to use negative advertising in their political campaign, we'll <b>fight fire with fire</b> .
<b>half the battle</b>	<i>idiom</i>	half of the job done	You've done all the research. That's <b>half the battle</b> . Now you just need to write the report.
<b>dig one's own grave</b>	<i>idiom</i>	to cause your own failure	If you yell at your boss, you're <b>digging your own grave</b> .
<b>stick to one's guns</b>	<i>idiom</i>	to refuse to change one's idea in spite of pressure	Johnny <b>stuck to his guns</b> about the story, even after the teacher said he was lying.



## Vocabulary, Idioms & Expressions cont.

### B. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct word, idiom, or expression from the previous page to complete the following sentences.

1. Terry Fox was a great Canadian \_\_\_\_\_.  
He lost his leg to cancer and then ran across the country with an artificial leg to raise money for cancer research.
2. The general ordered his soldiers to \_\_\_\_\_ because the countries had agreed to sign a peace treaty.
3. The workers are going to \_\_\_\_\_ to get more money and better working conditions in their families.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ where the soldiers are buried is filled with wildflowers.
5. Don't give up! \_\_\_\_\_, even if they try to get you to change your mind.
6. If he studies hard, he will have \_\_\_\_\_ of passing the national exams.
7. I have finished packing all the boxes. That's \_\_\_\_\_.  
Tomorrow we will rent a truck and move to the new apartment.
8. They lost the first three soccer games, but they are sure they will finally have a \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.

### C. Writing

Write your own sentences using the remaining vocabulary and idioms from Part A. Use your notebook if you need more room.

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## Survey

Walk around the classroom and ask your classmates questions.

Write the questions in the spaces provided below, and write your classmate's name on the right if he/she answers "yes."

#	Find someone...	Question	Classmate
1	who went to a November 11 memorial service last year.		
2	who knows the name of the person who wrote <i>In Flanders Fields</i> .		
3	who knows when Armistice Day became an official holiday in the US.		
4	who puts a wreath on his/her door at Christmastime.		
5	who has fought tooth and nail for something recently.		
6	who has been to a cemetery recently.		
7	who can tell you which US president proclaimed the first Armistice Day.		
8	who has met someone on the warpath this week.		
9	who can remember where the unknown soldier was buried in France.		
10	who can tell you four different names for the November 11 holiday.		



## Poetry

### A. Reading

#### In Flanders Fields

John McCrae

*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.*


### B. Comprehension

Practise asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Write the answers in your notebook.

1. What does the word “crosses” refer to in the first stanza?
2. Who is the speaker in the poem?
3. What is the name of the bird mentioned in the first stanza?
4. Find a word in the first stanza that means “barely” or “almost not.”
5. Why is it hard to hear the birds singing?
6. Find a word in the second stanza that means “daybreak” or “sunrise.”
7. Find a word in the third stanza that means “argument” or “fight.”
8. Find a word in the third stanza that means “enemy.”
9. Find an old English word that means “you.”
10. What does the speaker want the listener to do?
11. How is the mood in the first two stanzas different from that in the third?
12. Do you think this is a peace poem or a pro-war poem? Discuss this with your classmates.



## Listening

 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2011/11/02/podcast-remembrance-day-2/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. November 11 is celebrated as a day of \_\_\_\_\_ in many places around the world. In some countries, it is known as Armistice Day; in others, it is referred to as Remembrance Day or Poppy Day; and in the United States, it is called \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
2. This day is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the peace treaty or armistice that was signed by the Allied forces and the Germans at the end of World War I. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an order was given for all shooting to stop. Soldiers laid down their \_\_\_\_\_ and people all over the world rejoiced. After four long years of bitter fighting, "the war to end all wars" was finally over. In many countries, people went out into the streets, closed their businesses, sang songs, blew whistles and horns, and celebrated.
3. Shortly after this, many former \_\_\_\_\_ nations set aside November 11 as a day to remember the \_\_\_\_\_ that men and women had made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. Armistice Day was created in the United Kingdom by King George V on November 7, 1919. In 1921, an unknown First World War soldier was \_\_\_\_\_ in Arlington National Cemetery in the United States. Similar ceremonies occurred in England and France where unknown soldiers were buried in each nation's highest place of honour, Westminster Abbey and the Arc de Triomphe. These memorial services, which all took place on November 11, gave universal recognition to Armistice Day.
4. After World War II, the name of this day was changed to Veterans Day in the United States and to Remembrance Day in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Armistice Day remains an \_\_\_\_\_ holiday in both Belgium and France.
5. On November 11 in many parts of the world today, veterans march in \_\_\_\_\_, and politicians and others give speeches of thanks for the peace that was won. People gather together in assemblies to honour all the men and women who have served and continue to serve their countries. \_\_\_\_\_ and flowers are placed on graves and war monuments. In many services, a sad song called "Last Post" is played by a bugler or trumpeter. Then a moment of silence takes place at 11:00 am to remember all those who died in World War I, World War II, and other wars.
6. In many countries, the poppy has become a recognized symbol of November 11. The poppy is a bright red wildflower that \_\_\_\_\_ across some of the worst battlefields of World War I, and the poppy's red colour came to represent the bloodshed of trench warfare. Veterans groups in many different countries sell \_\_\_\_\_ poppies to help raise money for veteran support groups.
7. The expression "\_\_\_\_\_ We Forget" has also become connected with November 11. After the First World War, people promised never to forget the horror of war, and so, still today, November 11 remains a day of historic significance across the globe. It is a day where people \_\_\_\_\_ together and turn their thoughts toward the importance of peace and the avoidance of future wars.