

Why do people in some countries wear poppies on 11 November?

- To remember soldiers who died in wars.
- To remember the anniversary of the end of World War I.

11 November is called
Armistice Day /
Remembrance Day



Why do people stop to remember at exactly 11 o'clock in the morning on 11 November?

At the end of World War I, on 11 November 1918, the fighting stopped at 11 am.



American and British soldiers, 1918. © IWM (Q 9365)

Why was the poppy chosen as a symbol of remembrance?



- Poppies were the only plant to grow on the battlefields during the war.
- Their red colour reminds us of blood and lives lost.
- They grew where people died, which suggests hope.

How did the tradition of wearing poppies begin?

- A Canadian doctor and soldier, John McCrae, wrote a poem about World War I, describing the poppies on the battlefield.
- Moina Michael, an American woman, read his poem.



What do you think Moina did after she read the poem?

- The poem inspired Moina to wear a poppy to remember soldiers who had died.
- She began to sell poppies, using the money she made to help soldiers injured in the war.



In Flanders Fields

John McCrae

We are going to
read the poem
that inspired the
tradition of
wearing poppies.



Women's Auxiliary Army Corps at Abbeville, February 1918.
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