



Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a tribute to members of the armed forces who fought and died for their country. This poignant day happens every year and gives people the opportunity to remember those who gave up so much to protect their country.

When Remembrance Day Happens

Remembrance Day happens on the 11th November because this is the date that the countries involved made an agreement to end the First World War at 11 a.m.

Annually, at this time, people take part in a moment of silence to remember all of those that died. This tradition takes place in many countries around the world.

Why People Wear Red Poppies

After the First World War had ended, beautiful, red poppies grew on the battlefields of France and Belgium. That's the reason why people now wear poppies on Remembrance Day.

Poppies were first sold in 1921 and they have since become the main symbol for Remembrance Day. In fact, many people actually call it 'Poppy Day'.

Each year, people have the opportunity to buy a poppy. Some of the money raised from the sale of poppies goes to charities that aim to help to improve the lives of wounded members of the armed forces and their families.

The First Remembrance Day in Britain

This is a diary entry that was written on the first Remembrance Day that was held in Britain.

The First World War

In 1914, it was announced that a world war had commenced. This was to be the beginning of the First World War. After just over four years of battle, the First World War ended in 1918. It is known as the Great War because it had such a huge impact on lots of people around the world.



Remembrance Day

11th November 1919

It's been an entire year since the First World War came to an end so the King came up with a wonderful idea. A message was released from the palace on the 7th of November, which was published in the newspaper.

King George V asked the people of Britain to stop what they were doing and to pay their respects to all the members of the armed forces who had died protecting their country. His wish was for everyone to be silent for one minute at 11 a.m. because this was the time that the war finished last year.

As I stood on the frost-covered street outside my house, the silence that filled the surrounding area was incredible.

At 10:59 a.m., a horse and cart came to an immediate halt at the end of the cobbled road. I'm sure that the horse had made sure that the silence wasn't to be disturbed.

Grown men were staring at the floor clutching their caps tightly to their hearts. Women used tissues to dab their streaming tears and even young children stood frozen like statues. Every person, no matter their age, understood why they were joined together in that important moment.

This beautiful tribute was something that will stay with me forever.

Questions

1. What was the First World War also known as? Tick one.

- the Big War
 Remembrance War
 the Great War
 the Long War

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- The first Remembrance Day took place.
 The First World War began.
 An agreement was made to end the First World War.
 Poppies were first sold.

3. **Grown men were staring at the floor clutching their caps tightly to their hearts.**

What does the word **clutching** mean in this sentence?

4. Fill in the missing words.

Women used tissues to dab their _____ tears and even young children stood _____ like statues.

5. In the text, what reason is given for why people now wear poppies on Remembrance Day?

6. The diary entry is dated 11th November 1919.

What other evidence is there that it was written a long time ago?

7. Look at the diary entry.

Do you think that the people in the street were respectful during the one minute of silence?
Tick one.

- yes no

Explain your choice.

8. Look at the section **Why People Wear Red Poppies**.

Using the text, explain why poppies are so important.
