

THE POPPY, A SYMBOL OF REMEMBRANCE



The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance. Red poppies are worn in several countries throughout the world by people who want to remember the soldiers who died protecting their countries during wars and in peace-keeping. The red poppies are worn in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Great Britain, as well as in other countries, on November 11th each year. November 11th is called Veterans Day in the United States, Armistice Day in Great Britain, and Remembrance Day in Canada and Australia.

The poppy has been used as a symbol of our remembrance since World War I. Poppies grow best in freshly turned earth, and the battlefields of the first world war were covered with red poppies. Lt. Colonel John McCrae wrote a poem about the poppies called, "In Flanders Field...", and they became a reminder of the many people who had died during that war. Moina Michael was an American war volunteer. She began wearing a red poppy to commemorate those who had died on the battlefield. The Canadian Great War Veterans' Association adopted this tradition in 1921.

Veterans' Associations in the United States and other countries sell real and silk poppies to provide funding for services provided to former members of the armed forces. Medical assistance, equipment, meals, and transportation are some of the services provided.

Wearing a red poppy is a special way of showing that we remember those people who gave so much for our freedom.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. When do people observe Veterans Day? _____

2. How do we observe Veterans Day? _____

3. Name some countries that observe this holiday. _____

4. Why are poppies considered a symbol of Veterans Day? _____

5. How do Veterans' Associations in the United States use the money they make from the sale of red poppies? _____

6. Who receives the services provided from the sale of the poppies? _____

