

Remembrance Day / Veterans Day

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When did World War I end?
2. What other names are there for Veterans Day?
3. What does the poppy symbolize?
4. What does the phrase "Lest We Forget" mean?

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. remembrance | a) the act of recalling (not forgetting) the past |
| _____ 2. anniversary | b) a stone or building that acts as a reminder of a person or event from the past |
| _____ 3. peace | c) a period without war |
| _____ 4. Allied forces | d) a group of nations who joined to fight against Germany's forces |
| _____ 5. veterans | e) the loss of blood that leads to death (usually in war) |
| _____ 6. wreath | f) an annual date that marks a special event in history |
| _____ 7. monument | g) soldiers who fought in the war and lived |
| _____ 8. trumpet | h) a decorative ring of flowers or plants |
| _____ 9. battlefield | i) a brass horn that plays music |
| _____ 10. bloodshed | j) a place where soldiers fight |





Reading

1. November 11 is a day of **remembrance**. Different countries use a different name for this day. In Belgium and France, it is called Armistice Day. In Britain and Canada, it is Remembrance Day. Americans call it Veterans Day.
2. This day marks the **anniversary** of an important **peace** agreement. Do you know the name of the peace treaty? It was called the Armistice. In 1918, after four long years at war, Germany agreed to stop fighting the **Allied forces**. The war ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. From that day forward, November 11 became a day of remembrance.
3. On November 11, **veterans** march in parades and lay **wreaths** on war **monuments**. Children learn about the wars and share poems about world peace. At 11:00 am, a moment of silence takes place. A **trumpet** or bugle player plays a memorial song called "Last Post."
4. In many countries, the poppy is a symbol of November 11. The poppy is a bright red wildflower. It bloomed across major **battlefields** in World War I. Its red color symbolizes the **bloodshed**. When you wear a poppy, you honor those who fought and died for peace. Some people call November 11 "Poppy Day." The phrase "Lest We Forget" is a promise connected with November 11. After World War I, people promised not to forget the pain and sorrow of war. The poppy acts as a reminder of this phrase. Have we kept this promise?

Comprehension

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in your notebook.

1. List three other names for Veterans Day.
2. What was the Armistice?
3. Why is the number 11 important for veterans?
4. Why is the poppy a symbol for November 11?
5. What happens on November 11?



Vocabulary Review

A. Synonyms or Antonyms?

Are the following words or phrases synonyms or antonyms? Write your answer next to each word pair.

1. anniversary / annual date _____
2. peace / war _____
3. allies / enemies _____
4. remember / forget _____
5. veteran / novice _____

B. Pass the Poppy

Put on some classical music. (*Last Post* is available online.)
Pass a poppy (buy or make one) from student to student as the music plays. When your teacher pauses the music, the person holding the poppy has two options:

1. Vocabulary

Use one highlighted word from the reading in a sentence. Your teacher will choose the word.

2. About

Answer your teacher's question about the reading. Your teacher will say something like, "Tell me about the peace agreement after World War I."



Class Activity

Work together as a class. Write an acrostic poem using the letters from the word “remembrance” or “veterans.” Email your poem to ESL Library and we’ll publish the best poems on our blog!

Discussion


1. Did your country participate in World War I and/or II?
Describe your country’s role or position.
2. Is world peace impossible?
3. Do you wear a poppy on Veterans Day? Why or why not?
4. What other object would be a good symbol of remembrance?

Class Opinion

Have the nations involved in World War I and II kept their promise not to forget?



Listening

 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2010/11/09/podcast-remembrance-day/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

1. November 11 is a day of _____. Different countries use a different name for this day. In Belgium and France, it is called Armistice Day. In Britain and Canada, it is Remembrance Day. Americans call it _____ Day.
2. This day marks the _____ of an important _____ agreement. Do you know the name of the peace treaty? It was called the Armistice. In 1918, after four long years at war, Germany agreed to stop fighting the Allied forces. The war ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. From that day forward, November 11 became a day of remembrance.
3. On November 11, veterans march in parades and lay _____ on war monuments. Children learn about the wars and share poems about world peace. At 11:00 am, a moment of silence takes place. A _____ or bugle player plays a memorial song called "Last Post."
4. In many countries, the poppy is a symbol of November 11. The poppy is a bright red wildflower. It bloomed across major _____ in World War I. Its red color symbolizes the _____. When you wear a poppy, you honor those who fought and died for peace. Some people call November 11 "Poppy Day." The phrase "Lest We Forget" is a promise connected with November 11. After World War I, people promised not to forget the pain and sorrow of war. The poppy acts as a reminder of this phrase. Have we kept this promise?



Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

This lesson includes a reading, vocabulary development tasks, comprehension questions, discussion questions, a game, and a group activity.

LEVEL: Low Int – Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: war, Remembrance Day, poppy, veteran, Veterans Day, peace

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Discuss in pairs, in small groups, or as a class.

1. World War I ended on November 11, 1918.
2. Other names are Remembrance Day, Armistice Day, and Poppy Day.
3. The poppy symbolizes the bloodshed during the war.
4. The phrase “Lest We Forget” means we promise to never forget the pain of war.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. a | 3. c | 5. g | 7. b | 9. j |
| 2. f | 4. d | 6. h | 8. i | 10. e |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

After reading the passage, break the students into pairs and have them practice asking and answering the comprehension questions. At the end of the oral practice, have the students write the answers. Review again orally with the whole class.

1. Veterans Day is also known as Remembrance Day, Poppy Day, or Armistice Day.
2. The Armistice was a peace treaty signed by the Germans.
3. The number 11 is important because World War I officially ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.
4. The poppy grew in the battlefields. Its red color symbolizes those who died in battle.
5. On November 11, there is a moment of silence at 11:00 am. A trumpeter plays *Last Post*. Children share poems and veterans lay wreaths on war monuments.

(continued on the next page...)



Answer Key cont.

Vocabulary Review

A. SYNONYMS OR ANTONYMS?

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. synonyms | 3. antonyms | 5. antonyms |
| 2. antonyms | 4. antonyms | |

B. PASS THE POPPY

You can decide whether or not to watch as the students pass the poppy. At first you may want to close your eyes. When students have had more than one turn you may want to stop the music with your eyes open. You can also ask a student to pause the music. Make a poppy if you don't have poppies available in your country. If you have access to Youtube, here is a nice version of *Last Post*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4NtSqZcT_4

Adaptation: If your students like this game, you can also play "I remember..." Each time the music stops, the student with the poppy has to complete the sentence with a memory from his or her past. For example, "I remember when my third grade teacher predicted that I would be a famous writer one day."

Class Activity

Email your poem to ESL Library at hello@esllibrary.com and we'll publish the best poems on our blog.

Discussion

Discuss in pairs, in small groups, or as a class.

Class Opinion

Write the question on the board. Have your students walk around the class and ask each other their opinions.

Listening

1. remembrance, Veterans
2. anniversary, peace
3. wreaths, trumpet
4. battlefields, bloodshed

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Color*, *Honor*, and *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Colour*, *Honour*, and *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.