



G is for Grave of the Unknown Warrior

Making your own Remembrance poppy

Do you wear a poppy on your clothes in November? I wonder if you know why we do that.

A lot of fighting during the First World War took place in muddy trenches in France and Belgium. This area was called 'Flanders'. The earth was churned up by explosives and looked unrecognisable. Nothing grew in the sea of mud apart from poppies. The red poppy became one of the most recognised symbols of memorial in the world. The poppy represents soldiers who have died in any battle since the First World War. This is why poppies surround the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. Every year people are invited to place a poppy outside the Abbey in memory of a friend or family member who has been killed in battle.

One of the doctors helping wounded soldiers wrote a poem about the War. He mentioned the poppies that grew on the battlefields. You can read his famous poem below or listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1MO4EGdy8&feature=youtu.be>

In Flanders Fields by 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.





Now why not have a go at making your own poppy!

You could make a poppy badge or perhaps create a collage using coloured paper/fabric using our template. Or if you like baking, have a go at making a salt dough poppy.

Create a paper/card poppy

You will need:

- Thick paper/card
- Colouring pencils or paints
- Scissors
- Glue or stapler
- Sellotape
- Safety pin

Instructions:

- 1) Print out the poppy template, or draw your own, on to thick paper or card.
- 2) Colour it in with pencils or paints.
- 3) Cut around the outline.
- 4) Put some glue at the base of the leaf and stick it to the side of the poppy.
- 5) Attach safety pin to the back of the poppy.

Make a salt dough poppy

You will need:

- 1 cupful of plain flour (about 250g)
- Half a cupful of table salt (about 125g)
- Half a cupful of water (about 125ml)
- Paint

Instructions:

- 1) Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl.
- 2) Gradually stir in water.
- 3) Mix until dough is smooth and easy to handle.
- 4) Form poppy petals, a round middle and a leaf.
- 5) Put on a tray with baking paper and bake in a preheated oven at 150° c / Gas Mark 2 for approximately 3 hours or until they are completely dry.
- 6) Start painting when dough has completely cooled down.



“Did you know a group of lions is called a Pride?” said Livingstone the lion, “Lots of people feel a sense of pride when they wear their poppies. Can you send me a photo of your poppy?”

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Poppy template

