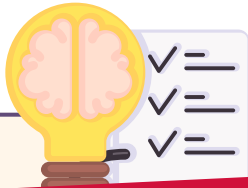


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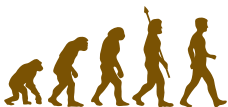
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Remembrance Day Activities Curriculum Map

Cultivating Respect and Understanding for Remembrance Day

Bringing the history and meaning of Remembrance Day alive in a modern classroom can feel daunting. Teachers worry that poppies, wreaths, and ceremonies will remain empty symbols without real emotional connection. Students, surrounded by screens and distractions, may struggle to grasp the human stories behind the dates and rituals.

Lest We Forget Transforms Remembrance Day from an abstract date on the calendar into a deeply personal experience by:

- Guiding students through the sacrifices of thousands of Canadians in World Wars I & II and the Korean War
- Unpacking the symbolism of war memorials, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Peace Tower, and the poppy
- Encouraging reflection on the realities of conflict, the value of peace, and the enduring qualities of courage, devotion, and multicultural freedom

What's Inside

- 79 engaging activities that blend history, writing, art, and discussion
- Informational readings on key symbols and ceremonies
- Answer key for easy planning and assessment
- 80 full-color pages designed for Grades 4–6

Curriculum Highlights

- Recognize the sacrifices made by Canadian service members in major 20th-century conflicts
- Understand the significance and evolution of Remembrance Day rituals
- Explore ceremonies of the past and their reflection in today's observances
- Appreciate the complexities of war and its impact on individuals and societies
- Celebrate the virtues of endurance, courage, and devotion to freedom
- Develop conflict-resolution skills through historical and contemporary lenses
- Embrace peace as an active, shared responsibility

Teacher-Friendly Design

- Clear, step-by-step lesson flow: read → reflect → create
- Ready-to-use templates for art projects, writing prompts, and class debates
- No prior specialty in history or social studies required
- Aligns with provincial social studies and language expectations

Seamless Integration

Use Lest We Forget alongside your existing social studies and language-arts programs. These activities naturally tie into writing assignments, group projects, and art explorations—so students connect facts to feelings and history to their own lives.

Whether you're guiding your fourth graders through their first wreath-laying or helping sixth graders craft heartfelt tributes, Lest We Forget equips you with everything you need to honor Remembrance Day with depth, empathy, and lasting impact.

Introduction & Planning Notes:

Teacher Notes & Suggestions Includes:

- Expectations
- List of Vocabulary
- List of Resources
- Teacher Input Suggestions
- List of Free Materials
- Student Activity Record

Reading Information Cards and Follow-Ups

Each includes information on the topic and follow-up worksheet or activity. Answers are included at the end of each activity.

Topics:

#1 What is War?

#2 World War I

#3 Fighting Conditions During World War I

#4 Consequences of World War I

#5 World War II: 1939-1945

#6 Consequences of World War I

#7 and #8 The National War Memorial and Remembrance Day Service

#9 The Two Minutes of Silence

#10 The Flowers of Remembrance

#11 The Peace Tower

#12 Famous Canadian War Heroes

Word Study Activities

Answer key is at the end of the activities.

1. Lest We Forget Crossword
2. Remembrance Day Word Search
3. Syllabication
4. Matching Antonyms
5. Matching Synonyms
6. Writing the Plural Form
7. Working with Parts of Speech
8. Spelling Riddles
9. Anagrams

Creative Writing Activities

Half-page cards can be assigned to students, and they can complete the work in a workbook.

1. Poetry Search
2. Sentence Remembrance
3. Sentences of Thanksgiving
4. Remembrance Day Thoughts
5. Story Writing
6. A Remembrance Day Card
7. Writing a Stair Poem
8. A Cinquain of Remembrance
9. Remembrance Day Haiku
10. Acrostic Poetry

Brainstorming Activities

Half-page activity cards students can complete in a workbook.

1. If you could wish upon a
2. Remembrance
3. War Alert!
4. A Remembrance Day Poster
5. Fighting at the Front
6. Acts of Courage
7. Planning an Interview
8. Ruled by a Dictator
9. An Honour Role

Research Activities

Half-page activity cards students can complete in a workbook.

1. War leaders
2. The Flower of Remembrance
3. Important Places
4. Researching a Country
5. Canadian Medals
6. War Machines
7. The Atomic Bomb
8. Fun With Maps



Remembrance Day

Information Card 1

What is War?



War is a struggle that takes place when two large groups try to conquer or destroy each other. Since the beginning of time, there have been many kinds of wars. In early times families fought against families, tribes fought against tribes and followers of one religion fought against followers of another. During modern times, wars have been fought between nations or groups of nations.

For hundreds of years, wars have been going on somewhere in the world nearly all the time. People hate wars because they always cause great hardship and suffering. In modern times, most nations or groups try to settle problems peacefully. Sometimes war results from a disagreement between nations and sometimes from a desire for conquest.

In ancient times, people often fought so that they could get enough to eat. They would make war on neighbours in order to obtain new lands to grow food. During the 1600s through to the 1800s, this kind of war took place in North America between the pioneers and the Native People. The Native People wanted to roam freely over the land, hunting, trapping or fishing whereas the pioneers wanted to clear the land to plant their crops. Frequent wars and battles took place during this time period.

The people of ancient empires fought wars for wealth. The ruler of an empire and his or her advisors made the decision to conquer new lands for the purpose of collecting taxes from the people. They would hire armies to do their fighting. The people were not driven from their lands.

Alexander the Great led his soldiers against the Persian Empire in 334 B.C. The common people of the invaded lands paid little attention to the invasion. They only hoped their property would not be destroyed. They did not care which ruler collected the taxes.

Sometimes wars were fought by European nations to gain or increase their power. These wars united the people and strengthened the government.

Often countries feared the possibility of an attack and maintain armed forces to defend themselves. A country might fear a particular country and might choose its own time to strike the first blow. It might also choose to conquer some weaker neighbour to increase its own resources as a defense against attack.

There are usually various reasons and causes for a nation to make war against another nation. There are differences between the causes and reasons of a war. The government always states the "reasons" for the war in order to unite the people in the war effort. The "causes" of a war may be selfish, base, or even wicked while the reasons are usually lofty and noble.



Remembrance Day



Reading Activity 1

Read the Information Card One entitled "*What is War?*"

Complete the following activities.

1. Wars have been taking place since the beginning of time. Record **five** reasons why wars occur.

2. What are the differences between the "*causes*" and "*reasons*" of a war?

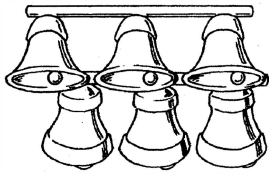
3. Why do people hate wars?

4. Write a paragraph stating your feelings about war.

Answer Key

Reading Activity 1: (page 2)

1.
 - People wanted more land to grow food.
 - Some wars were caused for greed and the want of money.
 - Governments caused wars to increase their power and unite the people.
 - Countries feared being attacked by other nations and attacked them first.
 - Sometimes countries disagree over certain things.
 - Religious beliefs often caused wars.
2. Reasons are the answers given to the people by the government for the war in order to unite them. The reasons are usually lofty and noble. The causes of a war may be for selfish, base, or wicked ideals.
3. People hate wars because they bring hardship and suffering.
4. Answers will vary.



Remembrance Day

Information Card 11

The Peace Tower



The *Peace Tower* was built to honour the sacrifices of 66 657 Canadian soldiers who laid down their lives in the cause of peace during World War I. It is the focal point of Parliament Hill and is known as one of the finest Gothic structures in the world. It is perhaps the most admired and revered part of Parliament Hill. National Memorials, The Memorial Chamber, The Book of Remembrance, and the Carillon of Bells are its treasured contents. The Peace Tower stands 90.6 metres high and a lookout is found at the top where magnificent views of Ottawa can be seen. There is also a four-faced clock that measures 4.8 metres in diameter.

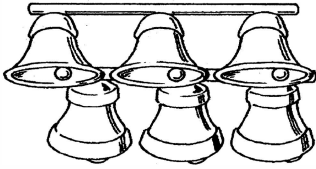
The *Carillon of Bells* consists of 53 bells of varying sizes. The largest bell weighs 10 080 kilogrammes. The smallest bell weighs 4.5 kilogrammes. The beautiful instrument is played from a wooden keyboard fashioned after the 300 year old Flemish system. Musicians have come from all over the world to study the magnificently tuned Carillon.

The *Memorial Chamber* was dedicated as a memorial to Canadians who were in the First World War. It was officially opened November 11th, 1928 by Rt. Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King, then Prime Minister. The walls and ceilings are made of a special stone that was a gift from the people of France. The border of black marble and the altar steps came from the people of Belgium. The floor is comprised of stone gathered from the various areas in which Canadian soldiers served. Inlaid brass plates denote the principal battles Canadians fought in such as Ypres, Mount Sorrel, Somme, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, Cambrai, Valenciennes, Mons.

The walls of the Memorial Chamber hold carved marble panels that tell the Canadian story during the war to end all wars. Each panel illustrates the sacrifices and achievements of the Canadian Armed Forces during 1914 to 1918 of World War I.

Within the Memorial Chamber is found the Altar of Sacrifice. It holds the Book of Remembrance in a gold frame decorated with the Royal Arms and the Arms of Canada. The name of each Canadian soldier who gave his life in the service of his country appears in the Book. The pages are turned according to a calendar so that each is on view the same day of the same month in each year.

The Books of Remembrance of World War II, the Korean War, South African War and the Nile Expedition are also found within the Memorial Chamber.



Remembrance Day

Reading Activity 11



Read the Information Card entitled "The Peace Tower".

Answer each question with a complete sentence answer.

1. What is the Peace Tower?

2. Why is it famous?

3. What are the four treasured contents stored in the Peace Tower?

4. How many bells are found in the Carillon?

5. What is the special room in the Peace Tower called?

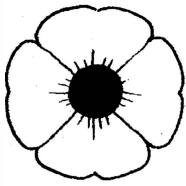
6. List the things that you would see in the Memorial Chamber.

7. What would you find in the Books of Remembrance?

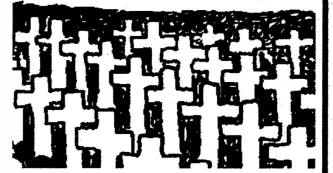
8. Why do you think it is important to remember the men that died during wars?

Reading Activity 11: (page 2)

1. a monument
2. finest Gothic structure in the world
3. National Memorials, The Memorial Chamber, The Book of Remembrance, The Carillon of Bells
4. 53 bells
5. The Memorial Chamber
6. stone walls, black marble, brass plates carved marble panels, the Altar of Sacrifice, Books of Remembrance
7. name of Canadian soldiers who died in the wars
8. Answers will vary.



Remembrance Day

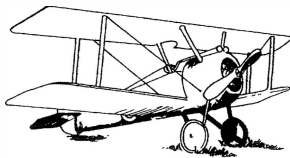
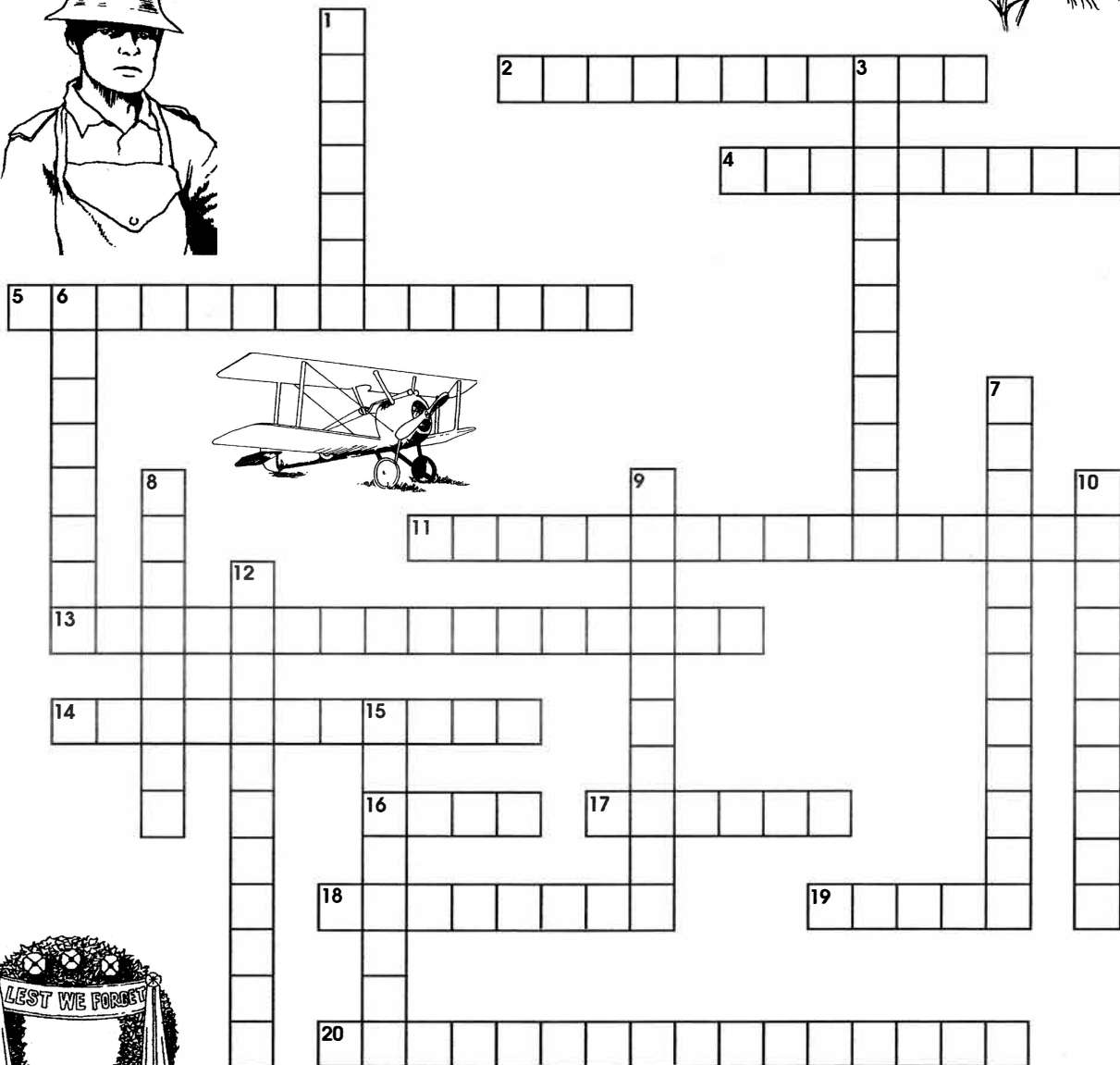


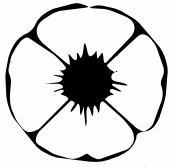
Word Study Activity 1

Lest We Forget Crossword Puzzle

Complete the Remembrance Day crossword puzzle.

Carefully read the puzzle clues.





Remembrance Day



Lest We Forget Crossword Puzzle Clues

Across

2. a large piece of war equipment used on land
4. the name of the city where the first atomic bomb was dropped
5. a cemetery for dead soldiers
11. the leader of England during World War II
13. a time when we bow our heads and remember those who died during the wars
14. an American port bombed by the Japanese during World War Two
16. the name of the day of the large invasion on the beaches of Normandy
17. It is placed on a cenotaph.
18. Japanese pilots who crashed their planes deliberately on ships
19. a blood-red flower
20. the name of a famous Remembrance Day poem

Down

1. They marked the graves of dead soldiers.
3. a famous German leader
6. a song played during a Remembrance Day Service by a bugler
7. the name of the day World War I ended
8. another name for monument
9. the author of "In Flanders Fields"
10. the name of a German war attack
12. a famous Canadian flyer during World War I
15. Manfred von Richthofen's nickname

Answers

In Flanders Fields	Armistice Day	John McCrae	D-Day
Hiroshima	Sherman Tank	Billy Bishop	wreath
Two-Minute Silence	Winston Churchill	Red Baron	Last Post
Pearl Harbor	Adolf Hitler	kamikaze	blitzkrieg
Flanders Fields	cenotaph	poppy	crosses



Remembrance Day



Word Study Activity 3

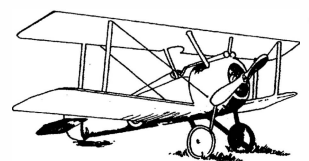
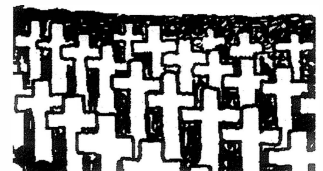
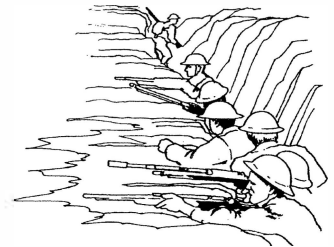
Syllabication

The words below are the names of countries and cities that were involved in both World Wars.

Rewrite each name on the line provided dividing it into syllables.

Example: England - Eng / land

1. Normandy _____
2. Dunkirk _____
3. Japan _____
4. Italy _____
5. Nagasaki _____
6. Belgium _____
7. Holland _____
8. Germany _____
9. Berlin _____
10. London _____
11. Paris _____
12. Switzerland _____
13. Poland _____
14. Russia _____
15. Moscow _____
16. China _____
17. Australia _____
18. Canada _____
19. Denmark _____





Remembrance Day



Word Study Activity 5

Matching Synonyms

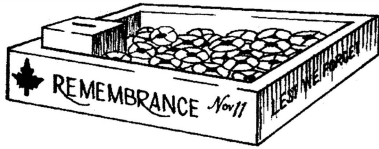
The words "**mean**" and "**cruel**" have the same meanings.

Words that have the same or similar meanings are called **synonyms**.

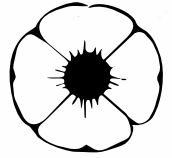
Choose a word from the box to match each word below. **Write** the word on the line provided.

1. friends
2. ditch
3. monument
4. honour
5. brave
6. glory
7. duty
8. praise
9. courage
10. devotion
11. terror
12. killer
13. victors
14. tyranny
15. to give up something

sacrifice
responsibility
comrades
assasin
winners
trench
cenotaph
remember
fearless
fame
loyalty
oppression
fear
valour
laud



Remembrance Day



Word Study Activity 7

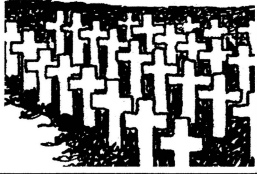
Working with Parts of Speech

Nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs are parts of speech found in sentences.

Classify the words in the list on the chart under the correct heading.

Nouns	Verbs
Adjectives	Adverbs

soldier
fight
proudly
valiant
bravely
blood-red
poppy
bombed
remember
cenotaph
daring
silently
gallant
wreath
march
peacefully



Remembrance Day



Word Study Activity 8

Spelling Riddles

The answer to each clue is hidden in the words



Remembrance Day

Use only the number of letters that are in the words.

1. an animal's home _____
2. a month _____
3. a place to sleep _____
4. a colour _____
5. a another name for taxi _____
6. to run in one _____
7. a nickname for a famous war pilot _____
8. an animal that has a shell _____
9. to have a great deal _____
10. a large farm building _____
11. very thick milk _____
12. to mend holes in socks _____
13. belongs to a club _____
14. the opposite to women _____
15. to move to music _____
16. something that happens when you sleep _____
17. close by _____
18. to be cruel _____
19. made from flour _____
20. a large group of musicians _____

