

Red Poppy Word Search

R O T A Z S A C R I F I C E E
R O L V C O Z L T M O D E A L
E M A D A M E E G U E R I N I
M L S O U V E N I R J I N B T
E H I T Y G E W S P J B Y T T
M E M O R I A L F L O W E R L
B H P S T U B C Y L H N Y F E
R P O P P Y L A D Y N I N H R
A H U R U R D E A W M J I E E
N J K A R M I S T I C E F R D
C D H M H Y I P B E C M I O P
E P O P P Y K R Y V R K I E O
D H U R S E I T O M A H Y S P
Q U O P H Y R F G Y E O G T P
M E M O R I P U N C H W E R Y
W E S H A L L N O T S L E E P

. memorial flower	. poppy	. we shall not sleep	. Madame E. Guerin
. remembrance	. souvenir	. Armistice	. Little Red Poppy
. Poppy Lady	. John McCrae	. Punch	. sacrifice . heroes

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- | | | | |
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Word Search Background

The Flanders Poppy, long known as the corn poppy became a natural symbol of sacrifice and remembrance immortalized by the writings of John McCrae in the verses of the poem entitled “In Flanders Fields”. These poppies were the first to grow in the soil of soldiers’ graves in the area of Flanders during the first World War.

The inspiration for this poem came from the death of a fellow officer, a friend, Lieutenant Alex Helmer during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium, May 1915. John McCrae, a Canadian Medical Officer scribbled the verses in a page from his dispatch book. He later discarded the poem, but it was rescued by another officer who anonymously sent it to the English magazine “Punch” where it was published December 8th, 1915.

John was born in 1872 and raised in Guelph and will be remembered as one of Guelph’s most famous sons. He died on January 28, 1918 at the age of 46 from pneumonia and was buried with military honours at Wimereaux Cemetery in France. On his death bed, McCrae challenged us by saying “if we break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep”.

Madame E. Guerin came up with the idea (with the help of individuals like Moina Michael, a teacher and an American War volunteer) of widows manufacturing artificial poppies to be sold worldwide for their veterans and dependents. Both became known as the “Poppy Lady”. Madame Guerin and other representatives approached veteran organizations in the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand throughout 1920-21 to adopt the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. The poppy tradition was embraced by the British, Canadian and American Legions, and subsequently, used to raise funds for disabled veterans.

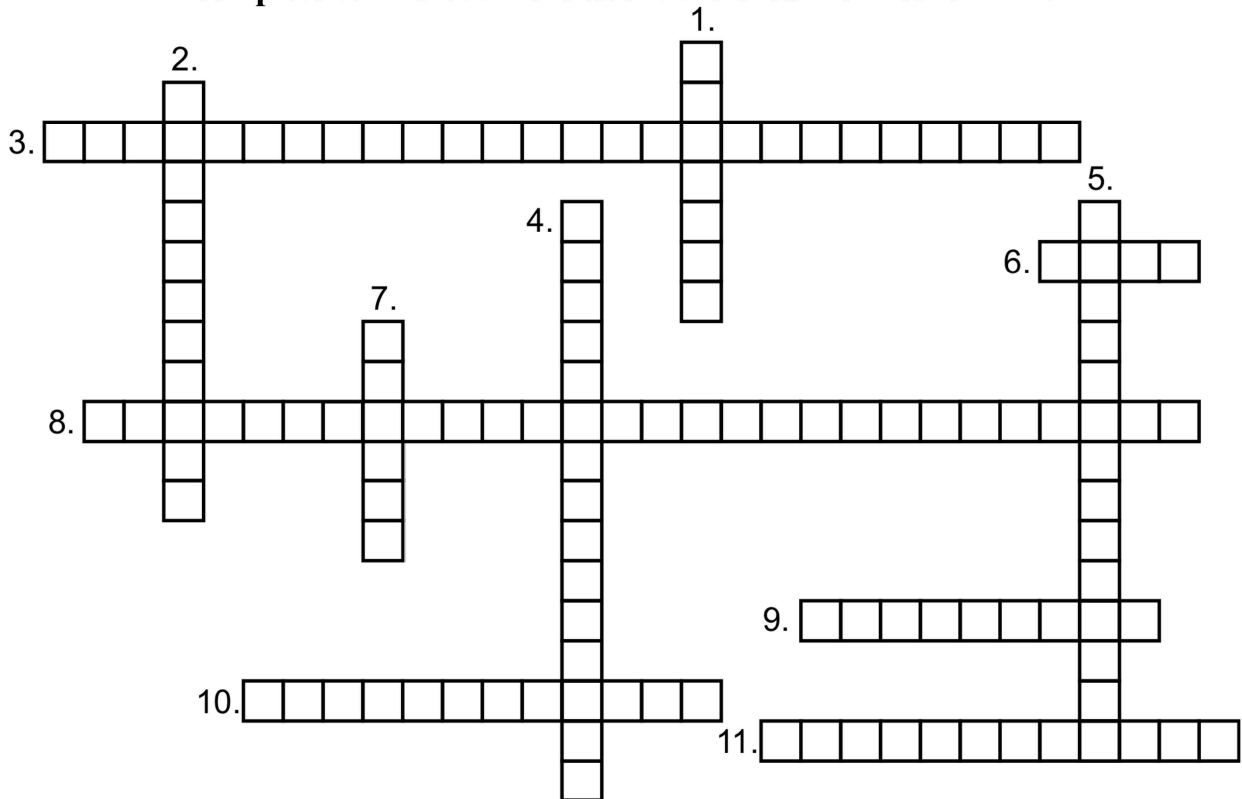
More recently, Canada distributed on October 21st, 2004 a poppy quarter with a painted poppy in the middle, the first “painted” coin put in circulation. At the bottom of the coin it reads “Remember Souvenir”.

In 2005, Rob Kennedy a teacher from Waterloo, Ontario wrote a song entitled “Little Red Poppy” to give children in particular a passionate voice to salute our heroes their deeds and their sacrifices.

Please join in the tradition of the poppy for your next Remembrance Day celebration originally called Armistice Day. The official starts of the Poppy Campaign is the last Friday in October and runs until November 11. The Royal Canadian Legion suggests that the Poppy be worn on the left lapel of a garment or as close to the heart as possible.

Caterpillar Club

One of the more interesting pieces of history I discovered while researching my song “Little Red Poppy” was the phenomena or should I say informal association known as the Caterpillar Club. It has a great history and I just find it fascinating. The people in this club are those airman who have successfully used a parachute to bail out of a disabled aircraft. Can you believe it??? I’ll let you read the whole story at wikipedia.org/wiki/Caterpillar_Club. Based on information from this site, I have put together the crossword below which you can copy and have the students complete to find out more about the dream of Leslie Irvin.



Down

1. Leslie Irvin gave one of these to persons saved by his parachutes
2. Invented the first free-fall parachute in 1919
4. Famous flyer who was a member
5. Researchers say this is the first airman saved by parachute
7. Person most officially recognized as the first to have his life saved by parachute is Lieutenant Harold R. ____

Across

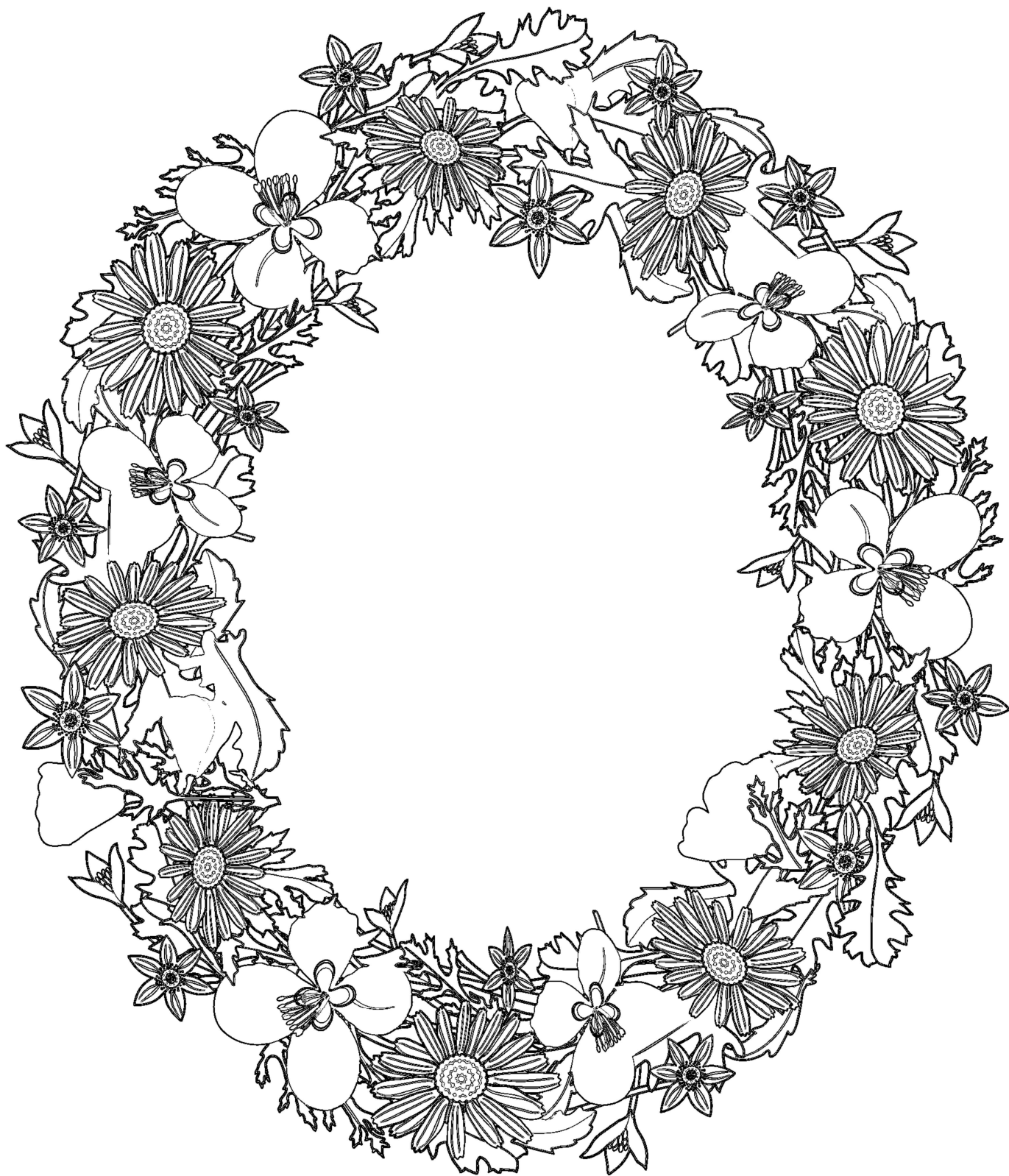
3. Motto of the Caterpillar Club
6. Parachute canopies were made of this material
8. Who developed the parachute using the rip-cord
9. Famous astronaut member of the Club
10. Tiny gold pin has ____ ____
11. Caterpillars let themselves down by a ____ ____

Answers: Down 1. Goldpin 2. LeslieIrvin 4. CharlesLindberg 5. WilliamOConnor 7. Harris
 Across 3. Lifedependsonasilkenthread 6. silk 8. IrvinairchutecompanyofCanada 9. JohnGlenn
 10. amethysteyes 11. silkenthread

Wreath Ideas

Another idea to help students express their ideas and opinions about these times we live in is to create a wreath of their ideas using poppies (positioned around the wreath) as a place where they can contribute their thoughts and have it displayed in their classroom. Have younger children make... a friendship wreath where you can incorporate anti-bullying themes. The older grades could make more world connections to peace and maybe even be invited to make comments to or about our troops abroad involved in peace keeping missions around the world.

See the next page for a wreath illustration you can use freely, or create your own.



Tell why you think your hero belongs in the “The War Heroes Hall of Fame”

The War Heroes

Hall of Fame

[illegible]

Australian Hero: John Simpson Kirkpatrick, A Short Story of a Man and his Donkey

John Kirkpatrick also known as “The man and his donkey” was born in 1892. He was a field ambulance stretcher bearer(a job given to strong men) with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during the Gallipoli Campaign, in WWI. He came from a large family of eight children. His parents Robert and Sarah Kirkpatrick were of Scottish background. His childhood was a happy one where there was lots of work around animals, very little schooling, and summers where he would often work as a donkey-lad on the sands of his home land of South Shields.

John was a very unlikely candidate to become a National hero because as an Englishman in the Merchant Navy he jumped ship in Perth in 1910 and then tramped around Australia working at odd jobs. Not sure whether or not a deserter might be accepted into the Australian Army or not, he changed his name to John Simpson when he enlisted August 23, 1914 with the AIF, in the hopes of getting a free trip back to England.

On April 25, 1915 he and the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) contingent landed at a beach on a piece of wild, impossible terrain now known as Anzac Cove, on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. Attacks and counter attacks followed and while John was carrying casualties from the front line to the beach to the Field Ambulance for treatment and evacuation, he noticed this donkey. From then on he could be seen walking with his donkey (Duffy) whistling and singing, as he held on to wounded British Empire soldiers. He used initiative and innovation in having a donkey to carry wounded soldiers from the dangerous rocky battlefield of Shrapnel Gully. It was a 1½ mile trip 12 to 15 times a day. He continued this bravery with his donkey, carrying no arms for another three and a half weeks (24 days), often under fire, until he was killed from a machine gun bullet in his back May 19th, 1915. Private Simpson was only 22 years old.

His story has been told to successive generations of school children, a story of sacrifice, bravery, and “mateship” symbolizing the spirit of all Australians whether it be in civilian or military endeavors.

Questions about “A Short Story of a Man and his Donkey”

1. There are some unusual words in the story...ones you don't see too often. Read the story and see if you can figure out their meaning.
mateship: _____

tramped around: _____

deserter: _____

2. John's Background

- a) How many brothers and sisters did he have? ____
- b) What were the names of his parents? _____ and _____
- c) Where was he born? _____

3. Army Details

- a) What was his rank in the army? _____
- b) The name he used to join the Australian Army? _____
- c) When did he enlist in the AIF? _____
- d) Why did he join the Australian Army in the first place?

- e) ANZAC stands for _____

4. Last Days

- a) He landed at a beach April 25, 1915 _____
- b) The battlefield's name???? _____
- c) How many trips a day did he make carrying soldiers? ____ to ____
- d) How long did his bravery last? __ days
- e) Donkey's name _____

5. In your opinion why do you think John has become one of Australia's most famous and best-loved military heroes?

A Short Story of a Man and His Donkey Answer Key

1. Mateship: comrades sticking together; Tramped around: travelled around inexpensively; deserter: left the armed forces without permission (e.g. AWOL)
2. a) 7 b) Sarah and Robert c) South Shields
3. a) private b) John Simpson c) Aug 23, 1914 d) hoped to get free passage back to England e) Australian and New Zealand Army Corps
4. a) Anzac Cove b) Shrapnel Gully c) 12 to 15 d) 24 days e) Duffy 5. Varies

Remembrance Day

Teacher Tidbits

Remembrance Day is the primary designation in many of the Commonwealth countries like Canada and Australia, but there are other names such as Armistice Day, which is used in New Zealand and France, Poppy Day used in South Africa and Veterans Day used in the United States. However, regardless of when or which country, it is a time when people around the world stop, pay respect, and remember the deeds and sacrifices made by men and women serving their country both past and present in an effort to protect and preserve our freedoms.

Canada:

In Canada, it is a public holiday in all provinces and territories except Ontario and Quebec. Typically, there are poppy wreath-lying ceremonies, bugling of the “Last Post” (or, more commonly “The Rouse”) along with a moment of silence, recital or singing of the song “In Flanders Fields” and the national anthem, “O Canada”.

Let’s check around the world.

United States:

Here it is called Veterans Day celebrated on November 11th at both the federal and state levels as a public holiday. However, the function of this observance is more closely matched by Memorial Day in May. It was formerly known as Armistice Day until after WWII.

Australia:

It is observed on November 11th although unlike the United States it is not a public holiday. Remembrance Day has been partially eclipsed by Anzac Day which is held on April 25th.

New Zealand:

Their national day of remembrance is Anzac Day, April 25th. “Poppy Day” usually is on the Friday before Anzac Day. Some services are observed on November 11th, which is referred to as Armistice Day.

United Kingdom:

The main observance is on the second Sunday of November called Remembrance Sunday even though on November 11th they still observe a moment of silence.

France and Belgium:

Armistice Day is a national holiday on November 11th in France and Belgium where it remembers the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany at Compiegne, France.

Italy:

Servicemen who lost their lives serving their nation are remembered on November 4th when the ceasefire followed the Armistice of Villa Giusti in 1918. This has not been a public holiday since 1977.

Germany:

In Germany, Armistice or Remembrance Day is not commemorated.