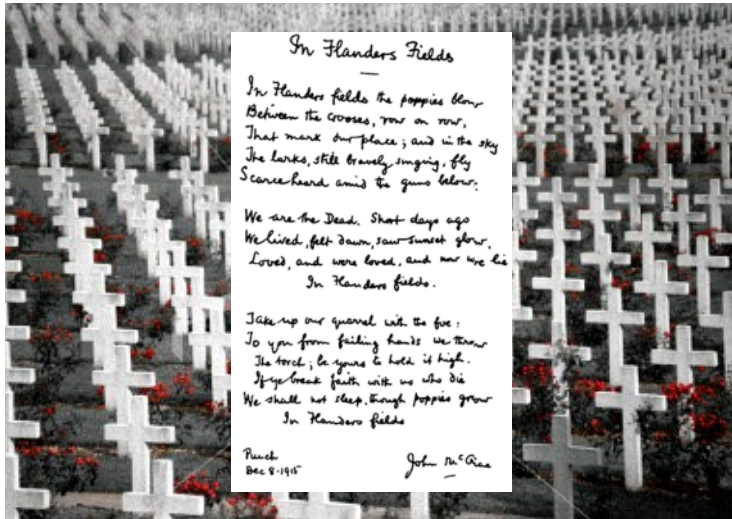


Worksheet 11. Remembrance

In many countries it has become the practice to set aside one special day in the year on which to remember their countrymen, and women, who had lost their lives in war. In the U.K. this day was first known as Armistice Day, but is now more generally known as Remembrance Day. As far as is practicable, *annually at 11 a.m. on 11th November, everything comes to a standstill while people pause for two minutes of silent *reflection and remembrance.



Where is Flanders?

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.

*Punch
Dec 8, 1915*

John McCrae

What does the line 'To you from failing hands we throw the torch' mean?

Total casualties, of all nations, suffered during World War I

- Wounded 8.8 million
- Missing 21 million
- Killed 7.7 million

*(figures are rounded up)***Statistics taken from****the History Learning site**

Moina Belle Michael 'The Poppy Lady'

In late November 1918, Moina, an American lady, inspired by John McCrae's poem, started a campaign to wear the red Flanders poppy as an individual token of '*keeping the faith with all who (had) died*'. Her idea was quickly adopted and the Flanders Field poppy became an internationally recognised symbol of Remembrance and welfare for war veterans.



In addition to the two minute silence honoured annually on November 11th, Remembrance Day is also observed on the nearest Sunday to that date. For Remembrance Day in Fovant on Sunday 6th November 2011, the Royal Corps of Signals installed a new, if temporary, badge - a Flanders poppy.

The Fovant Badges, said to be the largest group of hill figures in Europe, are now scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Do these badges, and what they stand for, teach us a lesson for our time?