

# The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 to 5



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Please circulate to:


# A Poppy is for Remembering

Does your school hand out poppies in November? Do you look forward to getting yours? Many students do. But they don't always know why they wear these bright red flowers.

The plastic poppies are a symbol. They are a symbol of remembrance. They remind us to remember the people who have died serving in the Canadian Forces (CF).

Over the years, Canada has been involved in four wars: World

A **conflict** is a fight or a clash. A **cenotaph** is a war monument.

War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the War in Afghanistan.

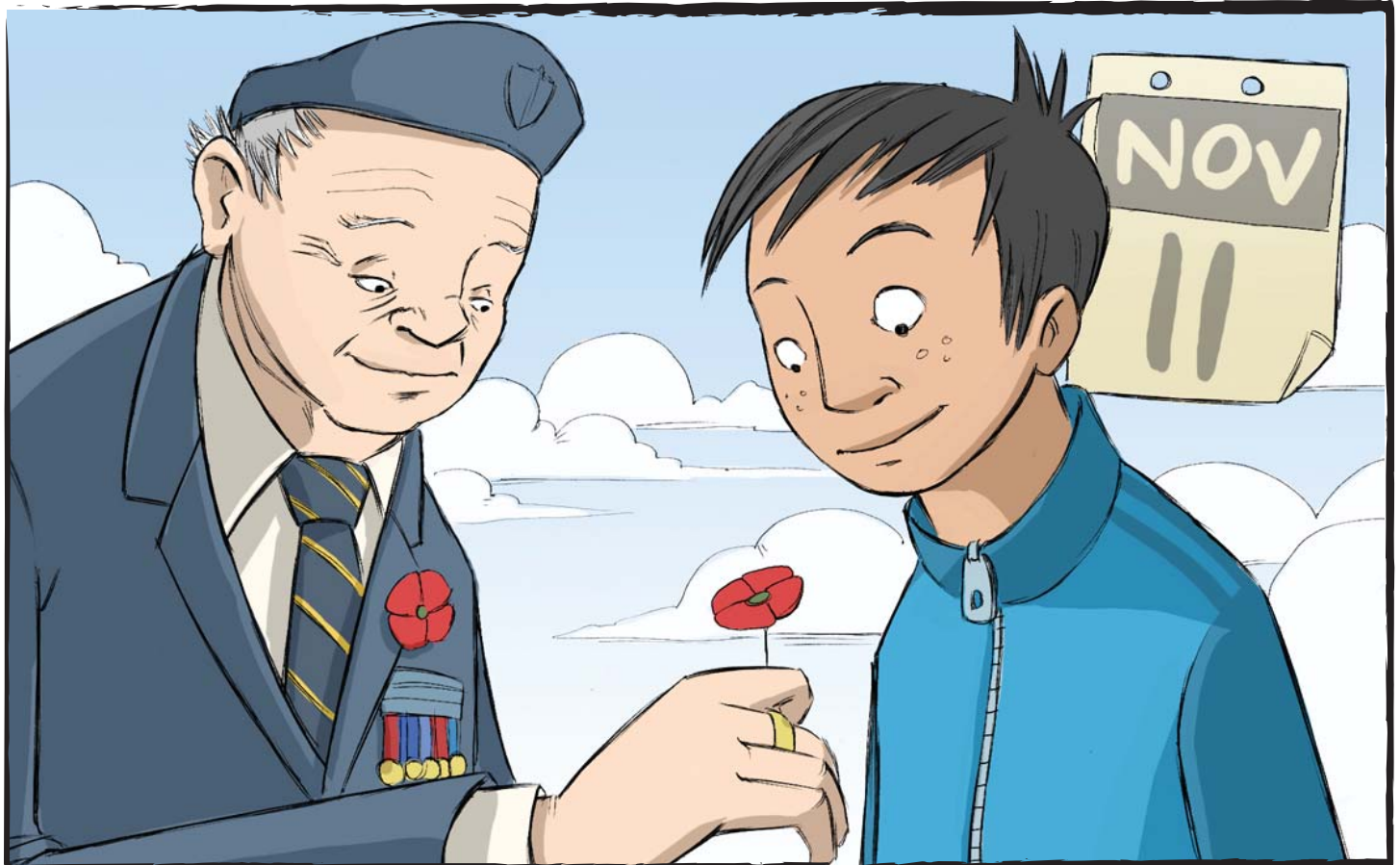
Canadians have also helped keep the peace in many other

**conflicts** around the world. During these events, over 116,000 Canadians have died.

## A day for remembering

The special day set aside for remembering these fallen Canadians is November 11. On this day, ceremonies are held across Canada. They are usually held at **cenotaphs**. And they always take place at 11 a.m.

Why? Because that's when the first war that Canada fought in officially ended. World War I ended in 1918. It ended on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour.





THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD,  
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,  
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

ODE OF REMEMBRANCE,  
BY LAURENCE BINYON

## The ceremonies

During Remembrance Day ceremonies, a poem is read. The poem is called 'Ode to Remembrance.'

Then, a bugler plays a piece of music. This music is called the Last Post. It is used in the military to mark the end of the work day. It is a quiet, sad melody.

After this music ends, there are two minutes of silence. During this time, people think about war. They think about peace. They remember the soldiers who died. They think about how their lives are better because these soldiers fought for our country.

Reveille ends the silence. This music is used as a wake-up call for soldiers. It is a brighter, hopeful melody.

**Did you know...?**  
In Newfoundland and Labrador, Remembrance Day is known as Armistice Day.

Of course, not everyone can go to a ceremony on Remembrance Day. But there is one thing all Canadians – even you – can do on November 11: stop what you are doing at 11 a.m. Pause for two minutes. Think about what

Canada's fallen soldiers have done for you.



What will you think about on Remembrance Day?



# A Poppy is for Remembering

## Lesson Plan

### Before Reading:

- ☐ Ask students what they already know about Remembrance Day. When is Remembrance Day? What do we remember on this day? Record their responses in web form on chart paper, a chalk or white board, or on an overhead.

### During Reading:

- ☐ As they read, ask students to highlight or underline new information relating to Remembrance Day.

### After Reading:

- ☐ Invite students to share the information that they noted during reading. Add this information to the class web.
- ☐ Ask students to consider: What reasons can they suggest to explain why we remember Canada's fallen soldiers?

### Extension:

- ☐ Have students read the first stanza of John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' at the top of the organizer **Represent It!** (p. 5). Then, ask them to draw what they visualize while they read this stanza. For this drawing, ask students to include as much detail as possible and to use colour.
- ☐ When their drawings are complete, have students share their work with a partner, explaining why they chose to include certain details in their drawings.
- ☐ A good drawing *clearly relates to the poem*, is *detailed*, and is *visually appealing*.

### Internet Connections:

- ☐ Find out more about Remembrance Day, 'In Flanders Fields', the poppy campaign, and related topics at:  
<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/history/other/remember>  
[http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/remember/remembranceday\\_e.shtml](http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/remember/remembranceday_e.shtml)  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2008/11/07/f-remembrance-day.html>

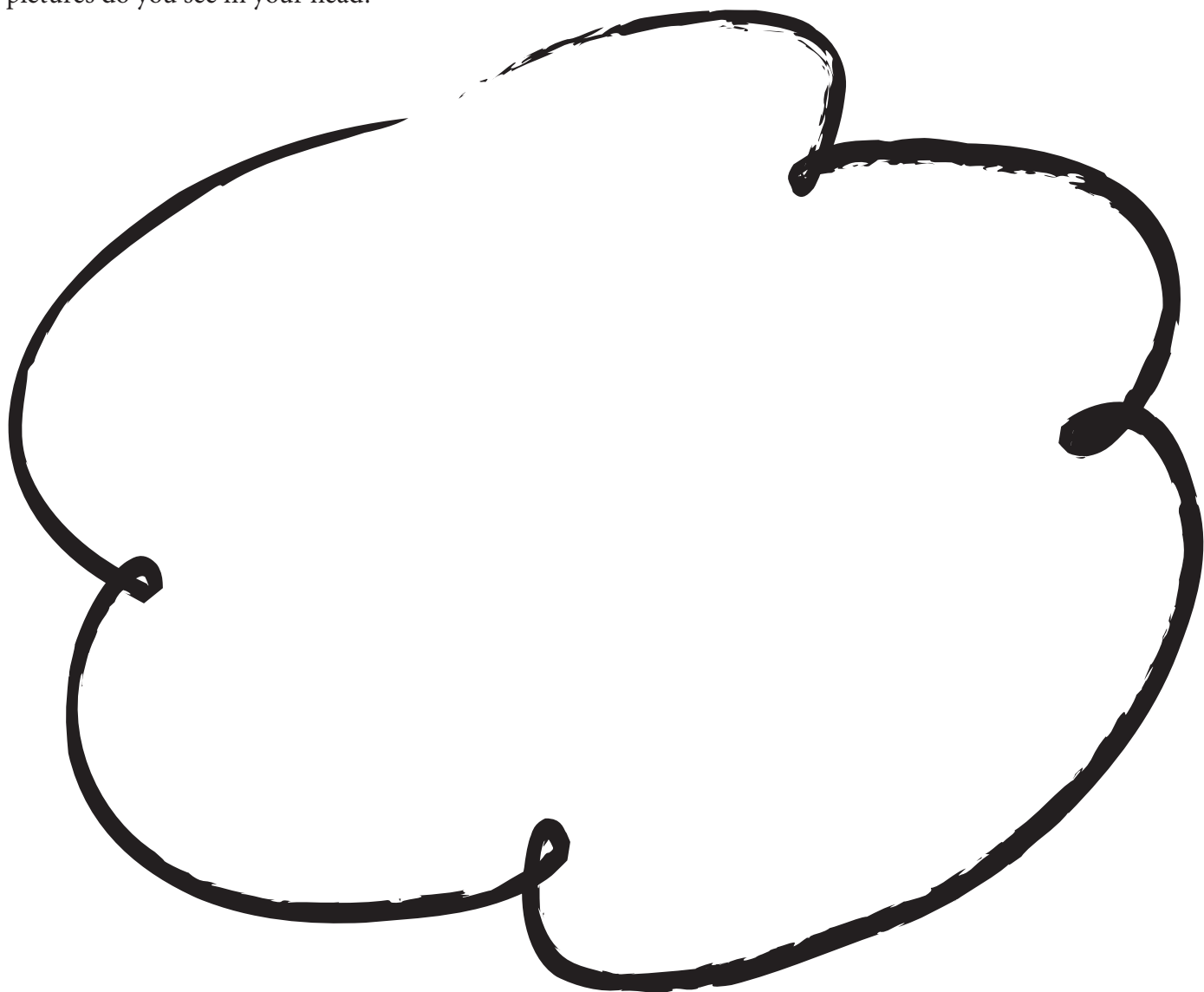
# A Poppy is for Remembering

## Represent It!

In Flanders fields the poppies blow / Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky / The lark, still bravely singing, fly

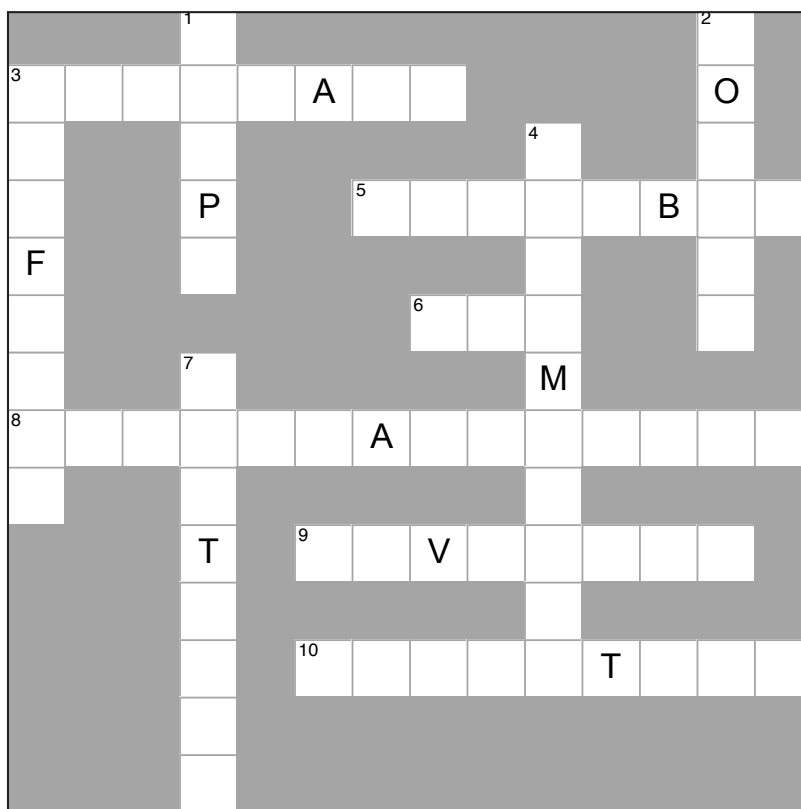
Scarce heard amid the guns below. - *John McCrae*

When you read the first verse of the poem 'In Flanders Fields,' what pictures do you see in your head?



# A Poppy is for Remembering

## Practice It!



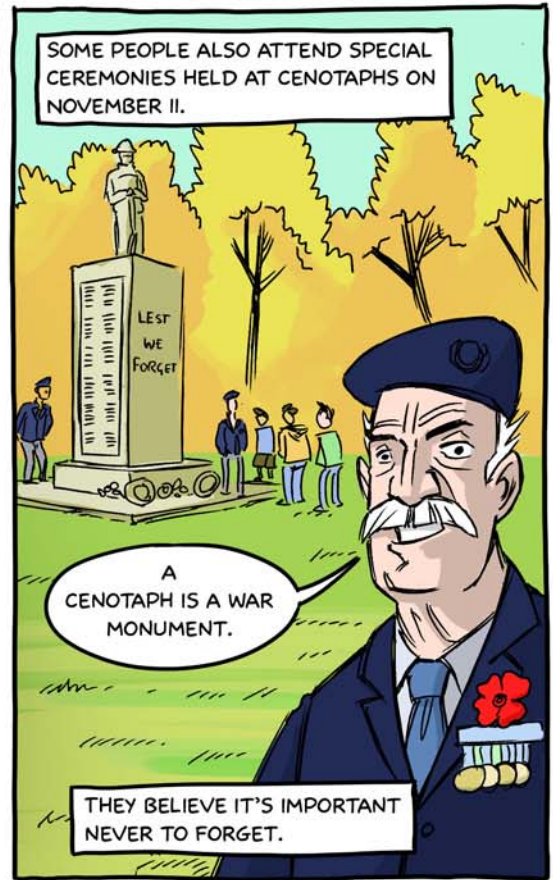
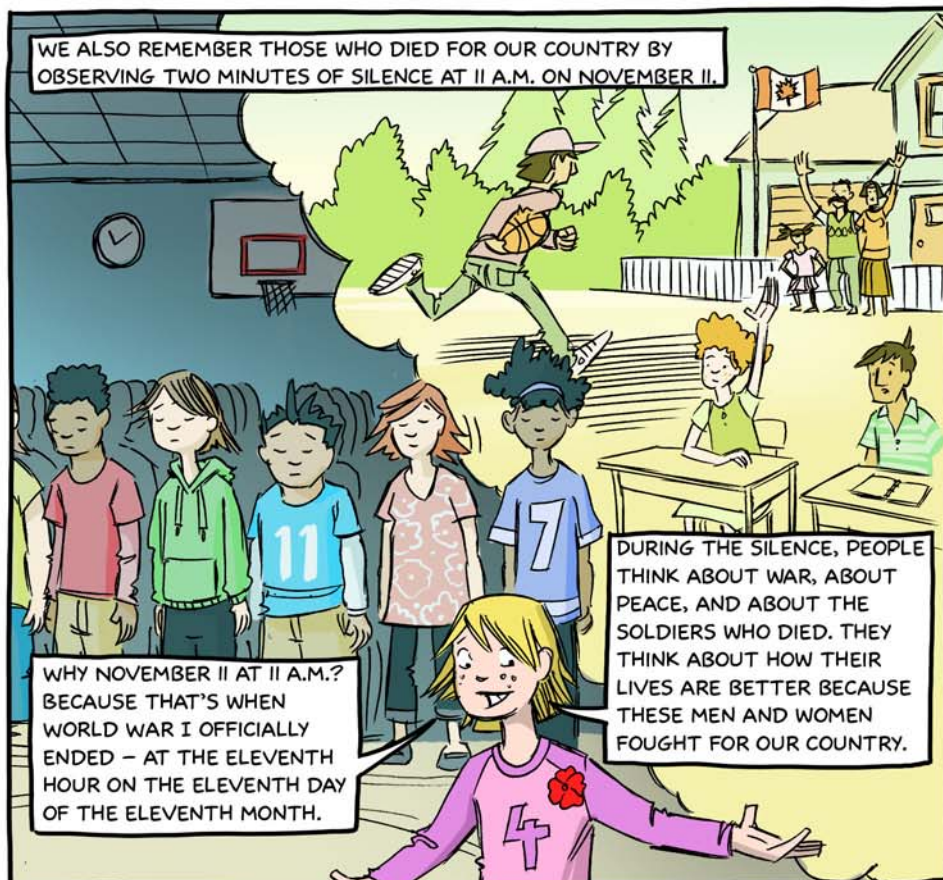
### Across

3. war monument
5. Remembrance Day happens in this month
6. Remembrance Day  
poem: \_\_\_\_\_ to Remembrance
8. Canada's military (2)
9. music that ends two minutes of silence
10. Remembrance Day in Newfoundland  
and Labrador = \_\_\_\_\_ Day

### Down

1. symbol of remembrance
2. war that Canada fought in
3. clash
4. take place across the country on  
Remembrance Day to honour fallen soldiers
7. music that starts two minutes of silence (2)





# Remembrance Day in Canada

## True or False?

Mark the statements **T** (True) or **F** (False). If a statement is false, write the word or words that make it true on the line below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Canadian soldiers have fought in one war.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Canadian soldiers are not fighting in a war right now.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Less than 100,000 soldiers have died for Canada.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. We wear poppies to remind us of soldiers who have died.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Remembrance Day is held every October 11.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. On Remembrance Day, we observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. A cenotaph is a war medal.  
\_\_\_\_\_



**In what ways is your life better because of the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers?**





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