

This lesson is about Remembrance Day or Poppy Day, which marks the day World War I ended and is observed in the UK and all the Commonwealth countries. You can do some or all of the following activities with your Year 7 and Year 8 students.

## Activity 1

Start by telling students the story of this day or read the text about it on the next page with them and do the comprehension exercise. In task B you can discuss the meaning of such days in general, with special reference to Vukovar Day, which is observed on 18 November. Alternatively, you can start with the crossword that is two pages on to familiarize Ss with the vocabulary. You can also prepare big cards with the vocabulary from the crossword and put them up on the blackboard to pre-teach or further recycle the vocabulary from the crossword.

## Activity 2

You can play the hangman game with your Ss. Draw the lines on the board.

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — (LEST WE FORGET)

When Ss have guessed the phrase, explain and discuss its meaning and try to transform it into simpler language: *So that we remember; We shouldn't forget; We should remember*. Show them the picture of the poppy with the phrase. You will find the picture and the phrase [here](#).

## Activity 3

To personalise the topic, show Ss a very short (1:44 min) BBC video in which schoolchildren talk about their family members who fought in WWI or WWII. Pre-teach vocabulary if necessary (to fight in a war, an officer in the navy, a spy, to receive a medal for bravery, air raid shelter/siren, to risk one's life, to be bombed, to be/get shot). You will find the video [here](#).

After watching the video, Ss can name the symbols used on Poppy Day (paper poppies, wooden crosses, wreaths, monuments, army) and share their family stories in small groups or as a whole class activity. Maybe they know someone who fought in our Independence War.





## READING

### A Read the text. What do the following words and phrases refer to?

"at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month"      Remembrance Sunday  
poppy      a Canadian doctor      Veterans Day      ANZAC

Remembrance Day or Poppy Day marks the day World War I ended, "at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month", back in 1918. In the UK, it is observed on the Sunday nearest to 11 November. This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on 12 November. It used to be called Armistice Day but after World War II it was renamed.

#### How is it celebrated?

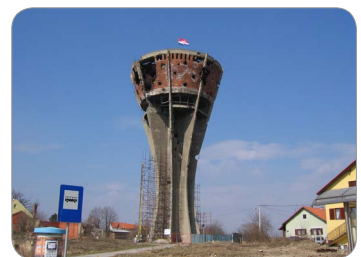
A two-minute silence is held at 11 am to remember people who have died in wars. Wreaths are laid at memorials and monuments to unknown soldiers and flags are put at half-mast. On that day, people wear red paper poppies as a symbol of respect for soldiers who have given their lives in all the wars fought so far. The symbol of a poppy comes from a poem written by a Canadian doctor who fought in WWI. The fields where the fighting took place turned into barren land. The first flowers to grow there were poppies. Inspired by this sight, the doctor wrote a poem.

#### Veterans Day in the USA

In the USA, Armistice Day was also observed on 11 November, but in 1954 it was renamed Veterans Day. On this day, Americans honour all veterans who served or still serve in the US Armed Forces. It is a public holiday, which means it is celebrated in all the US states.

#### ANZAC Day in Australia and New Zealand

"ANZAC" stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. This day is commemorated in both Australia and New Zealand. It is their day for remembering all the people who have fought and died in many wars for freedom. They also have the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. It is a public holiday in Australia.

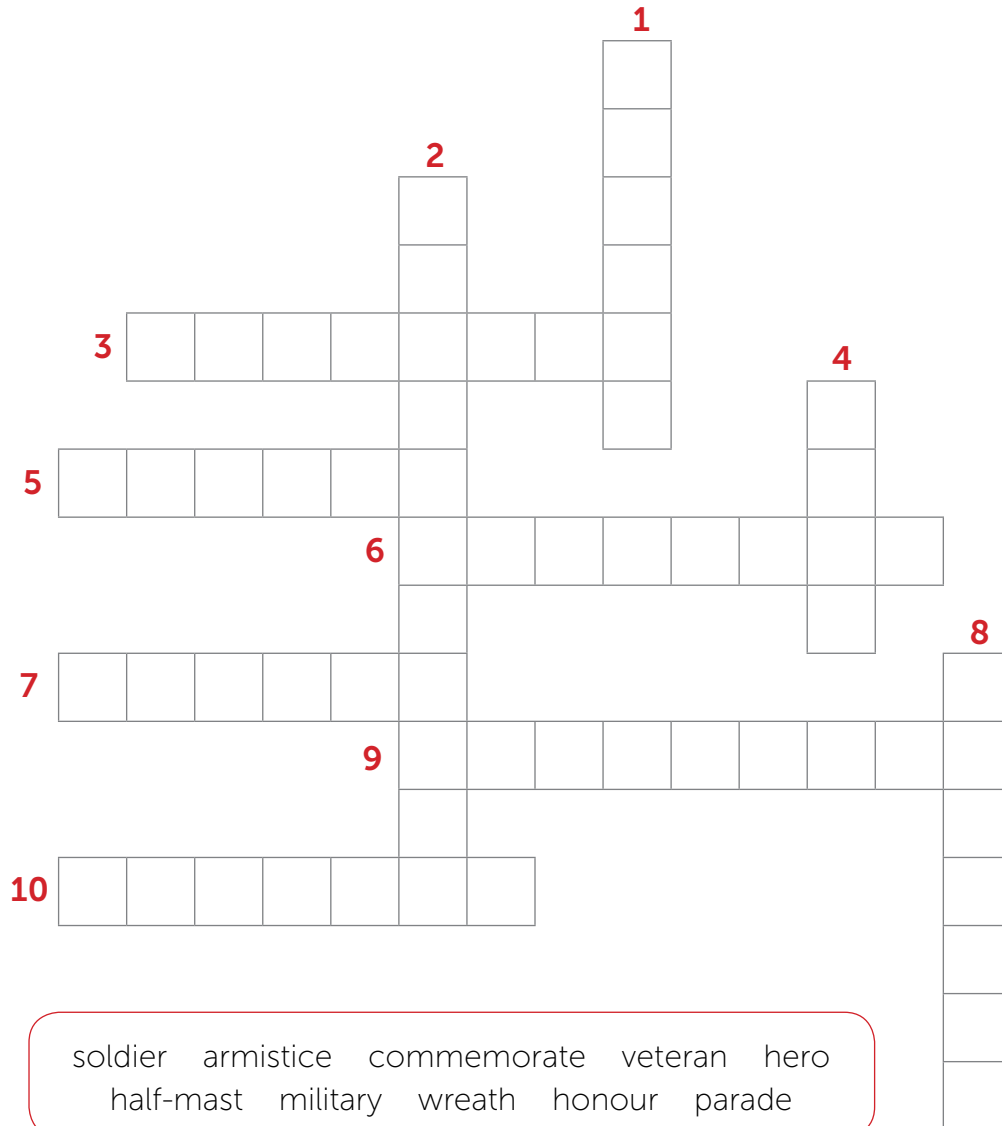


## SPEAKING

### B Discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you think special days like these are important? Why?
- 2 Do we observe a similar day in Croatia?
- 3 Why do we observe Vukovar Day on 18 November? What happened on that day?
- 4 What do we do on this day?
- 5 What is the symbol we use to show respect for and remember the soldiers who died in the Battle for Vukovar in 1991?
- 6 Have you heard of the fundraising activities organised to collect money for the renovation of the Vukovar Water Tower, the symbol of resistance?

Do the crossword. Use the clues and the words in the box.



## Across

- 3** When a flag is flown at the middle of the mast as a sign of respect for the person who has died.
- 5** It is a large number of people walking, marching, riding in vehicles etc. usually as a part of a celebration.
- 6** Something that is related to the armed forces.
- 7** This is great respect and admiration for somebody.
- 9** An agreement to stop fighting during a war, a ceasefire.
- 10** This is a person who fights in a war.

## Down

- 1** This is an arrangement of flowers and/or leaves in the shape of a circle.
- 2** To do something special in order to remember and honour an important event or person from the past.
- 4** This is a person who fights bravely in a battle.
- 8** This is a person who has been a soldier in a war.



### Activity 4 (optional)

With your Year 8 students, you can watch a powerful short Red Cross film about soldiers getting ready for a battle in the trenches during WWI. The film is directed as if the viewer were in the trenches with the soldiers and its goal is to encourage empathy and make us think what life might have been like for soldiers during WWI or any other war.

The film includes scenes of shouting, of someone being sick and of death. All the scenes are relevant to the film and its context. They are necessary and are part of the learning process, but owing to the nature of the film it is strongly advised that teachers review the film before showing it to students.

Use the film (duration 3:42) to talk about soldiers' feelings then and now in any war. You will find the film [here](#).

### Activity 5

To conclude, show Ss the installation by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper: 888,246 ceramic poppies (the number of people killed in WWI) progressively filled the lawn around The Tower of London from July to November in 2014 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WWI.

The installation is called Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red. You will find the pictures [here](#).

FYI: The installation sparked some controversy. It was generally loved, but there was some criticism too. [Here](#) you will find a negative reaction by *The Guardian*'s visual arts critic, and [here](#) the artists' [response](#) to it.



Photo "Tower of London Poppies" by Adam Singer