



NOVEMBER



November Poems

No shade, no shine,
No butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers,
No leaves, no birds,
November.

In November
Dark comes soon.
We turn on the lights
In the afternoon.

No sunshine, lots of rain,
No warm days, snow again!
No bugs or bees
No leaves on trees.
You must remember
This is NOVember!

November

Now the autumn days are gone
Frost is sparkling on the lawn,
Windows winking cheerful lights
Warm the cold November nights.

No green grass
No blue sky
No bare feet going by
No birds
No bees
No leaves on trees
November

November Chant

(Say the letters , clap on X.)

N-o- vem -b-e-r, X N-o- vem -b-e-r X
Thirty days XX Thirty nights XX
Let's learn how to spell it right XX

N-o-vem-b-e-r X N-o-vem-b-e-r X
Colder days, wind and rain,
Soon there will be snow again.

N-o-vem-b-e-r X N-o-vem-b-e-r X
Weather's cooler, days are short.
Stay inside and build a fort.

N-o-vem-b-e-r X N-o-vem-b-e-r X
We remember soldiers brave.
Wreaths are placed beside a grave.

N-o - vem - b-e-r X, No - vem - b-e-r X
November is cool!



November is a dreary month
It's gray and brown and dark,
No leaves on all the trees,
No children in the park.
In December the sky is dreary, too,
But cheer is all around.
For December has the holidays
And snow is on the ground!

November

November is cold
And rainy (*snowy*) and gray.
Many days in November
I stay in to play.

November

November is a month that is gloomy and grey
Leaves are on the ground, and birds have gone away.
Children are bundled, just waiting for snow.
There's a chill in the air wherever you go.
There are times in November you sometimes say,
"Summer seems such a long time away."



Remembrance Day Poems

Little Poppy

Little poppy
Given to me,
Help me keep Canada
Safe and free.

Poppy

Poppy, we are but children small,
We are too little to do it all.

Children you may do your part.
Loving each other is how you start.
Play without fighting.
Share your games and toys.
Be kind and thoughtful,
To all girls and boys.

On Remembrance Day
Our flags will wave,
To honor those
Who were so brave.

The Strangest Dream

Last night I had
the strangest dream
I ever had before
I dreamed the world
Had all agreed
To put an end to war.

And the people in the streets below
Were dancing round and round
And swords and guns and uniforms
Were scattered on the ground.

Remembrance Day

We wear a poppy
On Remembrance Day,
And at eleven
We stand and pray.
Wreaths are put
Upon a grave.
As we remember
Our soldiers brave.

Thank You For Everything

They were called to serve
they never asked why.
They fought for freedom for you and I.

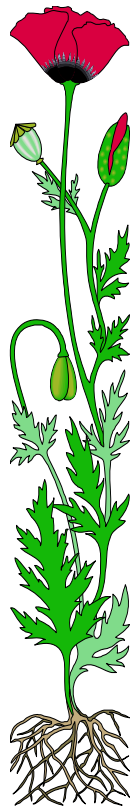
Their families and friends
were left behind.
Their goal was peace for all mankind.

Fighting for liberty and justice for all
some lived to see it,
But some did fall.

Each one risked their life
so freedom could ring.
Thank you all for everything!

I'll wear a little poppy,
As red as red can be,
To show that I remember
Those who fought for me.

I'll wear a poppy
As red as can be
To show my respect
So all can see.



The soldiers brave
Are the ones we remember
We thank every one
In the month of November.

They fought for you
They fought for me
They fought
For everyone.

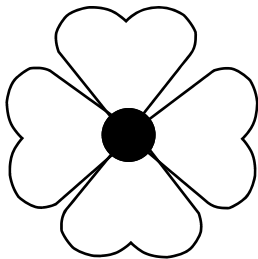
Remembrance Day

What do we tell small children about Remembrance Day? Perhaps the little poem says enough! Talk about peace, rather than war. Brainstorm what peace means to them. It may be the quiet time when Mom reads a story or sitting in their favourite spot. Peace is very important in our lives, and the poppy asks us to remember this.

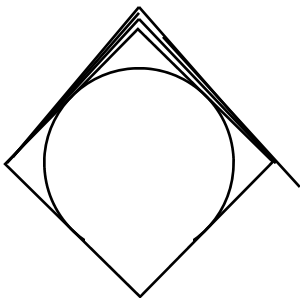
Little Poppy

Little poppy
Given to me,
Help me keep Canada
Safe and free.

Making Poppies



"We make poppies by cutting hearts. The students first practice folding paper and cutting hearts, and when they are confident they are each given four squares of red paper. They cut out four hearts. Then the tips of the hearts are glued together to make poppies. They can add a red circle and then put yellow and black spots in the centers. Curl the petals into the center. Put them on a bulletin board display or a wreath."



Fold red paper twice and cut as shown. (For Kindergarten kids you will likely want to draw the line where they cut.) Add black and yellow dots in the centre of the poppy.



Or - photocopy a page of these so they come out about the size of the poppies the Veterans give out.

Remembrance Day Art

Have the children trace their hands on green paper and glue the hands onto a wreath with the fingers outwards for leaves. Add the poppies on top.

Trace hands on red paper and glue them to a wreath. The children can place the wreath at the Remembrance Day assembly.

The children can use the poppies as card decorations. Simply create a card by folding a piece of paper in two. Glue one or more poppies to the front of the card. Send the cards to the Legion or a veterans' hospital with a thank-you inside.

Try cutting a large green pepper in half and taking out the seeds and the remainder makes a great stamp for a poppy design.

"For Remembrance Day I did a very old idea with torn paper poppies--

You need:

- pre-cut red paper- to 3" x 3" size - 3 per student
- pre-cut green paper- 2" x 4" size - for stems
- pre-cut green paper 4" x 9" - for the grass
- 9" x 12" black paper for the background



The children must tear the paper, no scissors allowed. They basically created 3 rounded red shapes, tore the stem piece into thirds, and created a waved edge on one side of the grass piece. They can also make 'hill' shapes with their grass piece. Then go for a 3 poppy arrangement using the green scraps to make tiny centres for the flowers. They are very simple, especially if done with older buddies! (my secret helpers) and they look very very effective when displayed."

"I did a large bulletin board, with large poppies that were done on manilla tag, and then cut out. Then the kids, working in pairs, cut out red bits of colour from magazines for the poppies and black bits for the centres and collaged them onto the shape. Then we did the background of pale blue, and used those trusty bingo markers to make groupings of poppies all over."

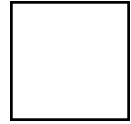


Teach 'Peace'. Make doves of peace. Enlarge these patterns to the size you need. Copy them onto white tag. Cut them out. They can be coloured with felt pens, paint or glue on glitter or sequins. Add the eye. Cut the slots and put the two pieces together. Attach string or thread and hang the doves so they fly in the breeze.

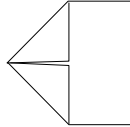
Make Origami Doves

Start with a square of paper.

Fold the square paper in half into a rectangle and unfold again to lay flat.



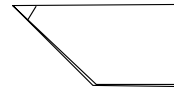
Fold two corners in to the center line.



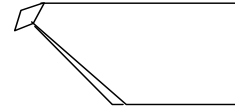
Fold paper in half with triangles inside.



Fold head down about 1/4 of top edge, creasing well.

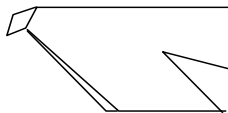


Fold head backwards on the same crease again creasing well.

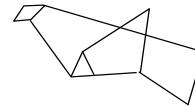


Return head to original position and push down on top fold, reversing the middle crease.

Draw triangle shape and cut away shaded area to make wing and tail.



Fold up wing. Turn the dove over and fold up other wing.



The completed dove can be decorated or hung just like this.

To make a bulletin board display, have a large simple circular map of the world (just continents and oceans) in the centre. Have every student in the school trace and cut out one or two hands in red and staple them around the earth - the bottom row with the fingers outwards and the top row going around clockwise, overlapping each.



Peace on Earth

"My colleague came up with an interesting idea for Remembrance Day which of course I borrowed from her as soon as I saw it.

Basically:

First we discuss what war is - I like to find out what my students know about war and their perceptions of it. Then we talk about living in Canada where we haven't really had to worry about war for a long time and we talk about what peace means. Then I try to have them connect the word 'peace' to things in their lives that make them feel safe, warm, peaceful, quiet, etc., so that they can begin to understand better the importance of having peace in our country.

We wrote the ideas on the board, the students choose one and printed the following :

Peace is _____. (one of the ideas)

and drew a picture to go with their sentence.

Some of the ideas they came up with were:

Peace is:

- a sleeping baby
- sitting by a fire
- looking at the stars
- night time
- having a bath
- my bedroom
- a rainbow
- a forest
- a gentle rain
- snowflakes falling
- hugging someone
- a beautiful bird
- looking at a pond
- someone sleeping



After doing this activity it was plain to see that they really do have an understanding of what peace is."

The Remembrance Day Assembly

Remembrance Day

by Teresa Williams

On Remembrance Day

We wear our poppies (children point to their poppies)

On Remembrance Day

We see the old soldiers proudly marching in the parade
(veterans march or stand and salute)

On Remembrance Day

We see people laying wreaths at the cenotaph (child places wreath at podium)

On Remembrance Day

We think of the soldiers who died (heads down)

On Remembrance Day

We think of the mothers who cried (girls weep)

On Remembrance Day

We think of the people who were fighting to make the world a better place to live
(globe and dove)

On Remembrance Day

We stand in silence (heads down)

On Remembrance Day

We remember.



A Poppy Wreath

The Legion in your community can help you get a guest speaker or a video of Remembrance Day.

Use Bryan Adams and We are the World for mood music as classes walk into gym. Get flags, sing O Canada, recite In Flanders Field.

Have one minute of silence at 11:00 o'clock - make sure all the children know the significance.

Each class can make a wreath, and bring them up one at a time to place at the front.

Each class can recite a poem.

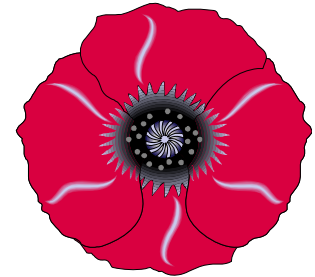


"With my class, we focus on peace. I post a Shel Silverstein poem called 'Hug O' War'. We read it in our chart reading for the week and I post it with a dove shape on which the children have written their versions of 'Peace Is ____'. Before they do their writing, I read Peace Begins With Me and we discuss what peace means to each of us.

We also have a Remembrance Day assembly in our school.

"Another book that I love for Remembrance Day is Sadako and the Thousand Cranes. There is a picture book version of it available."

"We do a great Remembrance Day ceremony every year. Last year my grade one class sang 'This Little Light of Mine' (by Raffi I believe) and at one point during the song we turned the lights out in the gym and the grade ones all had flashlights and swirled them out into the dark while continuing their song. It was a hit! We do emphasize world peace and our part in it, though, more than the memory of the killing and losses.



This year we are going to make a Maze (more like a path) in the gym and all of the students will do a peace walk while listening to music of the war years and other songs reminding us why peace is so important to us. Along the path we will have pictures of different cultures, landscapes of our wonderful earth, and pictures of families doing things together in a happy world. Some songs I've found are 'Let there be Peace on Earth' by Vince Gill, 'From a Distance' by Bette Middler, 'Peace Train' by Cat Stevens, 'Danny Boy' by John Gary, 'White Cliffs of Dover' by Kate Smith and Pachalbel Canon. As you can see, I'm quite passionate about instilling in the kids the importance of this day of remembrance, and in charge of the program at the school. Oh yes, last year we wrote prayers for peace on cards, attached them to a string on a helium balloon and let them go in the schoolyard. We used red balloons for remembrance of the blood shed, and white ones to signify peace. They were environmentally friendly and so I didn't feel too bad about letting them soar up into the air. The kids loved it!"

"Use 'The Paper Crane' (I think it is also called the 'Story of Sadako') to teach about the effects of war. Then do paper-folding of paper cranes."

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over.

"I always read and talk about '*Flanders Fields*' and just got a new book through Scholastic called '*A Poppy is to Remember*' by Heather Patterson. We usually talk about peace (what it means in the children's world) and the kids do writing 'Peace is...'. They make poppies by wrapping red/green tissue paper around the end of a pencil, dipping in glue, and putting on a poppy shape."



John McCrae was born November 30, 1872 in Guelph, Ontario.

When he was young, McCrae had a keen interest in both writing and the military. He began writing poetry while still a student at college.

In the years leading up to World War I, McCrae lived in Montreal and pursued a successful career in medicine. When Canada declared war on Germany in 1914, 41-year-old McCrae was among the 45,000 Canadians who joined the war effort within the first three weeks. McCrae felt it was his duty to help his country during these troubled times.

John attended to the health of many wounded soldiers in the trenches.

The day before he wrote '*In Flanders Fields*', one of John's closest friends was killed and buried in a grave decorated with only a simple wooden cross. Wild poppies were already blooming between the crosses that marked the graves of those who were killed in battle.

Unable to help his friend or other fallen soldiers, John McCrae gave them a voice through '*In Flanders Field*'. John McCrae died of pneumonia and meningitis on January 28, 1918.

Before he died, McCrae had the satisfaction of knowing that his poem had been a success.

The poem's popularity helped Canada and several other countries adopt the poppy as the Flower of Remembrance.

In Flanders Fields

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.

Lieut.-Col. John McCrae



In 2006 I was in Belgium, and part of the tour was a stop at the medical field station where Dr. John McCrae worked. This was just a series of concrete bunkers build into the side of a small ridge beside a canal - dark and damp inside - a dreadful place for the injured men and the doctors to work. Near this bunker was a small cemetery and several large cenotaphs with information about the man who wrote this famous poem. Canadians are still revered in Belgium for the fighting in the First World War. Everywhere we went through the battlefields of World War I there were our Canadian flags and poppies on the crosses of Canadian soldiers killed almost 90 years ago.

