



The importance of remembering

Why should we remember?

Ask children to list three things that are important to remember. Why is it important to remember them? Examples might include family members, their country of origin, significant achievements, key moments of their own or others' lives.

What can help us to remember? Do children have any special objects at home which help them to remember particular people, places or events? Are there special places they go to, or stories that members of their family tell, which help them to remember these things?

Look for artefacts or signs around the school which commemorate particular people or events. Encourage children to come up with historical questions prompted by these.

Why is 100 years significant?

One hundred years after WWI, there is no one left to tell us about it. None of the soldiers who fought in the trenches are alive anymore.

The war is no longer in *living memory*.

When we look at pictures and read texts from the war, we see a world very different from our own.

These sources teach us about our shared history. It is important that we don't forget.

The only way to understand our own time is to remember what has happened in the past.

How do you want to remember?

Show children a picture of a poppy. Have they seen people wearing them? Do they know why some people choose to wear a poppy at this time of year?

Visit a local war memorial. Ask children to describe accurately what they can see, e.g. symbols, dates and lists of names. Encourage them to record their findings in different ways, e.g. taking photos or sketching.

Find out about similar occasions in other countries, such as Memorial Day in the USA and ANZAC Day in New Zealand and Australia. How are the events and traditions associated with these days different to the way we celebrate Remembrance Day? What similarities are there?