



The poppy is used to help us remember something that happened over a hundred years ago. Many brave people from our country had to go and fight in the First World War, mainly in Europe, but also further afield. The conflict went on for four long years. Many soldiers died and didn't come home.

Their families and friends were very sad. Everyone was sad because these brave soldiers had been fighting for the good of the country. They wanted to think of a way to show the families who had lost loved ones that the nation was thinking about them and remembering, too.

It was decided that there would be a special day every year for remembering and praying. The date chosen was 11 November, because this was the day in 1918 when the special agreement to end the First World War - called an armistice - was signed. For many years, the day was known as Armistice Day, but it was later renamed as Remembrance Day.

It was also decided that everyone should wear a red poppy on that day. This was because thousands of red poppies had sprung up on the battlefields where many soldiers lost their lives during the First World War.



From 1939 to 1945, there was another terrible war: the Second World War. In the UK, the two-minute silence that happened on Armistice Day was moved from 11 November to the second Sunday in November so that it wouldn't interfere with all the work happening in factories to help the war effort. The day was called Remembrance Sunday.

On this day, we remember the servicemen and women who fought and died in two world wars. We also remember the people in the armed forces who have given their lives in wars that have taken place since the end of the Second World War. There are parades and special services, and poppy wreaths are laid at war memorials.