Valour Canada

Remembrance Day Package

This package is designed to facilitate planning and presentation of a Remembrance Day event.

**Learning Objectives:**

召回 and commemorate lives lost during war.

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- Valour Canada
Remembrance Day Package

The following package was created by Valour Canada to assist educators and facilitators of learning with the implementation of a Remembrance Day event or ceremony. The instructions below are merely a rough outline and can be amended or changed to meet situational needs.

1. Introduction

Provide students with an overview of Remembrance Day. Below are some starting questions to initiate discussion:

- What is Remembrance Day?
- What/who are we remembering?
- Why is Remembrance Day in Canada on November 11?
- What does the red poppy signify?

Additional upper level thinking questions:

- To what extent are war memorials sites of memory?
- In what ways has the memory of Canada’s military history been constructed? Is there any group of people excluded?
- How has art, poetry, and literature contributed to Canada’s war memory and Remembrance Day events?

Videos and online documentaries can also be used to start a discussion.

2. Poem

In 1915, John McCrae penned *In Flanders Fields*, one of the most well-known poems written during the First World War. Recite the poem, giving students a few moments to comprehend the significance of its words and overall meaning.

*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.*

A PowerPoint presentation can accompany the recital, or it can be read by students with no visual aids. For a list of additional Remembrance Day poems, please visit Veterans Affairs Canada.
3. **Acts of remembrance**

Think of ways in which, as a community, you can make a difference in the lives of current serving soldiers or can draw attention to the history of Remembrance Day in Canada.

Students may:

- Write a letter to a serving soldier. For more information, visit [Write to the Troops](#).
- Watch videos/documentaries in class about soldiers who served in the First or Second World War, Korea, in Rwanda, and/or Afghanistan. Visit [Valour Canada’s YouTube](#) page for a selection of videos.
- Visit a local museum or memorial.
- Visit digital exhibits, such as Valour Canada’s [Veteran’s Voices](#), a collaborative digital exhibit to recognize Canadian efforts during the Second World War.
- Design their own poppies and adorn them throughout their school’s hallway.
- Organize and donate to food or charity drives for local veteran’s association or the Royal Canadian Legion.

The goal is to encourage students to reflect on the concepts of remembrance and commemoration while providing avenues for them to get involved in their community.

4. **Two Minutes of Silence**

Observe two minutes of silence for the fallen.

5. **Planner/Scheduler for In-School Ceremonies**

For larger ceremonies, please find attached a Remembrance Day organizer. Consider how students/volunteers can assist in the following positions:

- **Guest speakers**
  - For a woman speaker: [https://womenveteranspeakers.com/](https://womenveteranspeakers.com/)
  - If an in-person interview is not possible, Veterans Canada offers several recorded online interviews: [https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/heroes-remember](https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/heroes-remember)

- **Piper or Bugler**
  - If no one is available to play the piper live, it is recommended to use a recording. For a recording of The Last Post by a bugler, consult the following: [https://youtu.be/McCDWYgVyps](https://youtu.be/McCDWYgVyps)

- **Wreath layer**
  - Schools or classrooms can order wreaths online from their local Canadian Legion: [https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/remembrance-day/ordering-wreaths](https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/remembrance-day/ordering-wreaths)
Poem recital

- Students or veterans can recite *In Flanders Fields*, or another Remembrance Day poem. Other poems can be found here: [https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/get-involved/guide-to-commemorative-services/poems#flanders](https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/get-involved/guide-to-commemorative-services/poems#flanders)

Creating a slideshow

- Students or teachers can create a slideshow of images related to Remembrance Day to accompany the recital of *In Flanders Fields* or to be shown on its own.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Student/Volunteer/Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entrance</td>
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<td>Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>Guest Speaker 1</td>
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<td>Poems/Slideshow</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Two Minutes Silence</td>
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<td>Guest Speaker 2</td>
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<td>Piper or Bugler</td>
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<td>Wreath Laying</td>
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<td>Closing</td>
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6. Additional Resources

The following list has been compiled to assist educators, instructors, parents, and interested students with further research on Remembrance Day topics and the histories of Canadians in the last century. Please note, some items will appear in more than one category.

**Canada and the World Wars**


**Canada post-1945**


**Poetry**


McCrae, John. *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2015.


**Plays**


**Illustrated Works**


**Personal Stories/Memoirs**


**Memory and Commemoration**


**Art Works**

For a vast array of war art, visit the [Canadian War Museums Online catalogue](http://example.com).

For military history articles or educational lesson plans and classroom resources, please visit [Valour Canada’s Education page](http://example.com).