

## TEACHERS' NOTES

# POPPIES & ARMISTICE

## FINDING OUT

Poppies are a symbolic flower in Australian culture, possessing a significant link to Defence service, war time and remembrance. Today poppies are worn to Remembrance services as a mark of respect for all those who have fallen during service and to all those who have served.

**Before** students view the video ([rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years3-6/Poppies](https://rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years3-6/Poppies)), you may wish to explore poppies with students in the following ways:

- Get students to make a poppy with the template (download the template from [rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years-P---2/Poppies](https://rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years-P---2/Poppies)). Students could display their poppies around the room or wear them to the next appropriate service.
- Encourage students to ask an older person what they associate poppies with, and why and when they wear poppies?
- Show students some paintings of poppies such as this image from the Australian War Memorial.



This resource supports the following Humanities and Social Sciences (History) Content Descriptions and General Capability:

- ACHASSK012 How they, their family and friends commemorate past events that are important to them.

Related content:

- Video [rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years3-6/Poppies](https://rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years3-6/Poppies)
- Poppy making activity [Insert link to template](#)
- Biography profile activity [Insert link to template](#)
- Last Post video [youtube.com/watch?v=7AM7x9od8Ys](https://youtube.com/watch?v=7AM7x9od8Ys)
- Contact a RSL Sub-branch [rslqld.org/Contact-Us/Sub-Branches](https://rslqld.org/Contact-Us/Sub-Branches)

Image:1.3\_WildPoppies.png Image: Kenneth Macqueen, Wild poppies, Mont Kemmel, 1917-1918, watercolour on paper, 11.9 x 17.6cm. AWM ART93950



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- Provide quality paper and water colours and engage students to paint some poppies. Students may wish to highlight the symbolic and realistic colours of the poppy or take a more abstract approach and creatively reinterpret a poppy landscape.

## SORTING OUT

**During viewing** of the video, you may wish to support student's knowledge and comprehension in the following way:

- Encourage students to consider 1-2 questions they have while viewing. Finding the answers could be conducted in small group discussions and information finds or as a class discussion assisted by teacher expositions/support.

## TAKING ACTION

**After viewing** the video, you may wish to consolidate and extend student's knowledge in the following ways:

- Assist students to find out about one of the following key figures
  - Moina Michaels
  - John McRayand their relationship to the advent of poppy wearing to honour service men and women.
- Students could present class research/information gathering and teacher led discussions in either of the following two ways:
  1. By completing the biography profile (download the template from [rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years-P--2/Poppies](https://rsleducation.com.au/Themes/Commemoration/years-P--2/Poppies)) and presenting it in the classroom.
  2. As an oral presentation — a mini talk — to the whole class in pairs or small groups.
- Assist students to explore the following topic/focus question:

*What is the meaning and purpose of the purple poppy?*



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## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



Image: 1.3\_extensionactivities.png: Australian War Memorial

Consider discussing the meaning, significance and protocols of the 'Last Post'. Students could view the video "Anzac Special: The Last Post — Behind the News" ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AM7x9od8Ys](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AM7x9od8Ys)) and participate in a class discussion.

Additionally, you could do the following:

- Invite a parent, teacher or older student in the school band to play the Last Post for the students
- Support students to make their own song of remembrance using real or digital instruments
- Support students to draw, write or make a reflective response to the hearing the Last Post and learning about its significance and meaning in Australian culture.

Consider contacting your local RSL Sub Branch to invite a member to visit your class and offer their perspective on students' ideas and questions. To find your local RSL Queensland Sub Branch, please visit [rslqld.org/Contact-Us/Sub-Branches](http://rslqld.org/Contact-Us/Sub-Branches)