

'Remembrance: a centenary'

Outline

This project allows pupils to engage thoughtfully and creatively with the close of the World War One centenary. It gives students the opportunity to reflect upon the efforts, sacrifices and losses in this conflict, and the impact that this has had on their own, and others', lives. The brief is as follows:

'Remembrance: a centenary'

This year marks one hundred years since the end of the Great War. Communities across the globe will be reflecting, through their own acts of remembrance, upon the efforts, sacrifices and losses in this conflict.

The centenary invites us all to consider the impact and significance of the First World War for us in our own lives. Questions such as: Why is remembrance important? What might happen if we ceased remembrance? What sacrifices were made? Is war ever necessary, or is it ever in vain? What impact has the efforts of many had on us today? What lessons/wisdom do we need to be mindful in the 21st century?

Your task is to present a creative piece that goes deep, showing your thoughts in a work entitled 'Remembrance: a centenary'.

This project is adaptable, and teachers can navigate a variety of routes in order to suit their class/context. For instance:

- use can be made of the online links (see below) to discuss remembrance prior to the activity;
- a selection of stimuli are linked to, as a means of exploring remembrance through art/poetry and generating pupil ideas;
- the output can be left open (e.g. pupils can choose photography, sculpture, drama, paint or poetry) or the class could focus on one;
- pupils could create their 'artwork' individually, in pairs or groups.

Activity Plan

If you would like to, you could explore 'remembrance' through videos and articles on the links below:

BBC Armistice Day resources -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3QvtfQFpTTXldyV5qgyxS3/armistice-day-resources>

Imperial War Museum – 'Remembrance in the First World War' -

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/remembrance-in-the-first-world-war>

Step One: *outline the theme/brief of the artwork*

Step Two: *look at stimuli*

- Explore 'Remembrance Art' as a class through a Google Image search. What might the artist be trying to say through the work? How is this achieved through the imagery, symbolism and colour? Which artworks link to remembrance most powerfully? How do they suggest the impact of the soldiers' efforts and sacrifice for today?

and/or

- Investigate war poetry, and the various viewpoints on war and sacrifice in them. Many can be found here: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/70139/the-poetry-of-world-war-i>

Some suggestions are:

For the Fallen – Laurence Binyon (1914)

In Flanders Fields – John McCrae (1915)

Dulce et Decorum est – Wilfred Owen (1917)

Elegy in a Country Courtyard – G. K. Chesterton (1922)

Step Three: *planning*

Repeat the brief, giving pupils an opportunity to plan their work and peer assess their ideas.

Pupils might like to respond through:

- Drawing
- Paint
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Graphic design
- Drama
- A Hannah Dunnett style piece - <https://www.benandhannahdunnett.com/artwork/>

Step Four: *creating*

Students make their creative responses, along with an abstract explaining the meaning of their artwork. The artworks can be displayed as a pupil 'art gallery' before being used as a display.