

## Worksheet 5: The symbolism of poppies

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Above: [Red Poppies](#) by Vera Buhl [CC-BY-SA-3.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons

The poppy plant can grow with a distinctive red flower. In some parts of the world red poppies grow very easily in places where the ground has been disturbed. So, in some fields that had been left bare by battles after World War 1, such as Northern France and Flanders, red poppies were the only plants to grow.

Because of this, the red poppy became a reminder of the loss of life during war. The poppy has become a symbol of remembrance. Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was a soldier during WW1 who wrote a well-known war poem called 'In Flanders Fields' that refers to the red poppies and is often read during commemoration ceremonies.

Paper red poppies are worn on days such as Remembrance Day, 11th November, when people in Australia and other countries around the world remember members of the army, navy and air force who have died in the line of duty.