

Remembrance Day

Teacher Tidbits

Remembrance Day is the primary designation in many of the Commonwealth countries like Canada and Australia, but there are other names such as Armistice Day, which is used in New Zealand and France, Poppy Day used in South Africa and Veterans Day used in the United States. However, regardless of when or which country, it is a time when people around the world stop, pay respect, and remember the deeds and sacrifices made by men and women serving their country both past and present in an effort to protect and preserve our freedoms.

Canada:

In Canada, it is a public holiday in all provinces and territories except Ontario and Quebec. Typically, there are poppy wreath-lying ceremonies, bugling of the “Last Post” (or, more commonly “The Rouse”) along with a moment of silence, recital or singing of the song “In Flanders Fields” and the national anthem, “O Canada”.

Let’s check around the world.

United States:

Here it is called Veterans Day celebrated on November 11th at both the federal and state levels as a public holiday. However, the function of this observance is more closely matched by Memorial Day in May. It was formerly known as Armistice Day until after WWII.

Australia:

It is observed on November 11th although unlike the United States it is not a public holiday. Remembrance Day has been partially eclipsed by Anzac Day which is held on April 25th.

New Zealand:

Their national day of remembrance is Anzac Day, April 25th. “Poppy Day” usually is on the Friday before Anzac Day. Some services are observed on November 11th, which is referred to as Armistice Day.

United Kingdom:

The main observance is on the second Sunday of November called Remembrance Sunday even though on November 11th they still observe a moment of silence.

France and Belgium:

Armistice Day is a national holiday on November 11th in France and Belgium where it remembers the armistice signed between the Allies and Germany at Compiegne, France.

Italy:

Servicemen who lost their lives serving their nation are remembered on November 4th when the ceasefire followed the Armistice of Villa Giusti in 1918. This has not been a public holiday since 1977.

Germany:

In Germany, Armistice or Remembrance Day is not commemorated.