

Anzac Day

OCCURS ON THE 25TH OF APRIL

It commemorates an event that has left an indelible mark on our national history and honours all New Zealanders that have been killed in war and our returned servicemen and women.

The date itself marks the anniversary of the landing of New Zealand and Australian soldiers—the Anzacs—on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915 during World War I. The purpose of the campaign was to capture the Dardanelles, the gateway to the Bosphorus and the Black Sea. By the end of the day, Gallipoli was still held by its Turkish defenders and thousands of people had lost their lives: 87,000 Turks, 44,000 men from France and the British Empire, including 8,500 Australians and 2,779 New Zealanders. Almost one in four of those who served on Gallipoli died.

This poem was written by Canadian physician and Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae on 3 May 1915 after witnessing the death of his friend, a fellow soldier, the day before.

In Flanders Fields

*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.*



The Remembrance Poppy: Its Origin and Symbolism

In America in 1918, inspired by McRae's poem, Moina Michael, a teacher, vowed to always wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who served in the war at an Overseas War Secretaries Conference. By 1921, following her campaign, it was adopted as an official symbol of remembrance by the National American Legion, the Royal British Legion and veterans' groups in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.



More info at: www.greatwar.co.uk/article/remembrance-poppy.htm#inspiration

Alternatives

In 1933, the white poppy and white poppy wreaths were introduced by Britain's Co-operative Women's Guild as a pacifist alternative to the red poppy, which some people chose to wear instead.

As a reminder that both animals and humans have been, and continue to be, victims of war, Animal Aid in Britain has issued a purple poppy to be worn alongside the red poppy to commemorate animal losses.

The First Anzac Day was in 1916

Since then, the day has gone through many changes. It offers teachers and students an opportunity to consider New Zealand's participation in war in general and the consequences of this for many New Zealanders, their families and communities. The ceremonies that are held at war memorials up and down New Zealand, or in places overseas where New Zealanders gather, remain rich in tradition, as the day still has a traditional commemorative function, but for more people it is also becoming an opportunity to talk about what it may mean to be a New Zealander.

New Zealand Curriculum Link: Social Science Time, Continuity and Change

A few things to consider:

- How cause and effects of war shape lives of New Zealanders
- How and why individuals pass on and maintain their culture and heritage
- How participating in the Gallipoli campaign developed and maintained a sense of cultural and national identity

Place and Environment

- Why particular places or surroundings, such as Gallipoli or other major locations New Zealanders have fought at, are significant
- A local memorial will have a tale to discover



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*One of the first silk poppies worn in
remembrance of the fallen soldiers*

Anzac Day 2015 Arrangements

Schools are welcome and encouraged to lay their wreaths at the ANZAC Day services—excluding the 6AM Dawn Service at the central cenotaph. For those schools wanting to lay wreaths at the central cenotaph, there is a second service at 9:45AM, which would be perfect. To make arrangements for one or two class representatives to lay the class wreath at an ANZAC service, please ring your school's nearest RSA:

Lower Hutt Memorial RSA: **T** 04 568 5404

Naenae RSA: **T** 04 567 8471

Stokes Valley RSA: **T** 04 920 5602

Wainuiomata Valley RSA: **T** 04 976 7763

Eastbourne RSA: **T** 04 562 8563

Taita RSA: **T** 04 939 9863

Art Activity: Poppy Wreaths

Materials

- tissue paper (red, purple, white and black)
- PVA glue
- copies of the template on card
- scissors

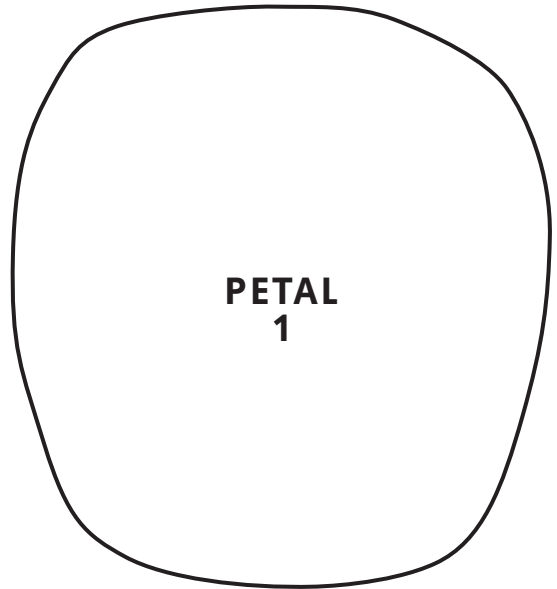
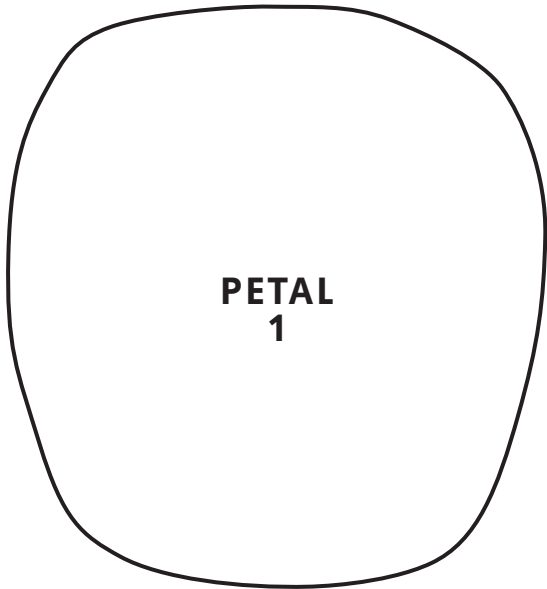
Method Guideline

- Use the templates provided to cut out petals to make a poppy
- Petal 1 is the base
- Each layer is adhered to the next using a dab of glue in the centre of each petal
- The centre template is cut from black and is the last piece to be added

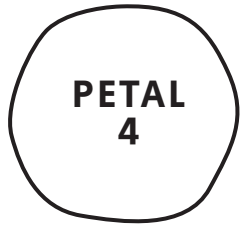
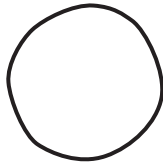


Options

- Children may choose to cut more than one of the other petals (e.g. 2x petal 2 or petal 3)
- Children may choose to cut slits in in petal 4
- Children may choose to scrunch their petals gently to make their flower more 3D
- Children may have another idea for how they would like to make their flower look more unique
- The finished flowers can be glued to a cardboard circle, 1cm in diameter, to make the finished wreath.



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