

Activities for Young Readers

For Use with

Where Poppies Grow

And

**In Flanders Fields: The Story
of the Poem by John McCrae**

by Linda Granfield

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Fitzhenry & Whiteside

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and **Where Poppies Grow**.

Written by Linda Granfield, published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

1. Ask an older relative or neighbor if they remember being a child during wartime. Share with your class the stories, photographs, or a souvenir they have given to you. (Interviewing and oral presentation skills.)
2. Imagine John McCrae as a young student, like you. What do you think his life was like? (He was born in 1872.) How did children dress around 1900? What did they eat? What books did they read and what sports did they play? (research skills)
3. (further to #2)
Photocopy or draw examples of the information you find while doing your "Childhood-1900" research and make a bulletin board display of your findings. (display and design skills)
4. McCrae writes in his poem about a bird called a *lark*. Find out what a lark looks like and draw a picture of the bird. Write a six-line poem about the lark, how it sounds and moves through the air. (drawing and language skills)
5. After reading the poem "In Flanders Fields," design and paint a poster for Memorial Day/Veterans' Day/Remembrance Day. Consider making part of the poster three-dimensional so it grabs the viewer's attention. (art skills)
6. World War I happened in the years 1914-1918, long before "rap" was a kind of music. Create your own rap verse or song based on the pictures you see in *Where Poppies Grow*. Perform it with some friends for your class. Consider performing it again at a ceremony for veterans in your community. (community awareness and language/music skills)
7. Photocopy the attached wordsearches (for *Flanders* and *Poppies*) and share copies with your friends and family. Take some copies to your local Legion or VFW; the veterans there will enjoy doing the puzzle and sharing it with their grandchildren. (community involvement and intergenerational sharing)
8. Make a map of France, Belgium, and/or England. Mark on it the places named in *Flanders* and *Poppies*. Many battles took place in a very small area of Europe. If a soldier marched to all the places you mark, how many miles would he have traveled on foot? (map skills and math estimates/calculations)

9. Be a flag detective. Many countries were involved in World War I. What were the flags of the United States (how many stars in 1918?), England, France, Belgium, and Germany? Make a flag poster. How many of the countries' flags are the same in 2005? (research and art skills)
10. Often during war, food supplies are rationed (available in certain amounts only) and the government prints recipes to help people use less of certain ingredients so that soldiers can eat properly. Sugar had been rationed, and the government encouraged people to cook with less. They also suggested the use of corn meal instead of flour. Use the attached recipe for *Corn Bread* and bake a batch for the class. (It's extra-tasty spread with grape jelly!) Can you imagine eating it *every* day? (math and science (chemistry) skills)
11. After reading *Where Poppies Grow*, write a few diary pages based on the information you see in the book written by soldiers and children long ago. Make an interesting cover for your diary. (composition and creative writing)
12. Invite a veteran of World War II/the Korean War/the Vietnam War/the Gulf War/Afghanistan or Iraqi wars to come to your school and share his/her thoughts about military service. (community/intergenerational contact)
13. Invite a recruiting officer from a local enlistment office to visit your school. What does a young man or woman have to do to become a soldier today? What does "basic training" mean? What skills does a soldier have to have to be in battle or be a part of a peacekeeping force? You may think differently about soldiers after the officer's visit. (community/careers/comparative work with soldiers' training in the past as seen in the books)
14. Check out some of the many websites devoted to war and peace. Suggestions:
 - www.warchild.ca –War Child Canada
 - http://collections.ic.gc.ca/CYIJ/just_act_about.html –Canadian Youth for International Justice
 - www.alternativeservice.ca –Mennonite Heritage Centre-conscientious objectors/lesson ideas for teachers
 - www.koreanchildren.org –the Korean War Children's Memorial
15. Young people throughout history have written letters to soldiers and peacekeepers. Write an on-line letter to the troops overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/ (U.S.)
 - www.forces.gc.ca/site/community/messageboard/message_add_e.asp (Canada)



CORN BREAD

1 cup EACH: yellow cornmeal and all-purpose flour
¼ cup sugar
3 tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
1 egg
1 cup buttermilk (or milk with 1 Tbsp white vinegar)
¼ cup vegetable oil or melted margarine

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Lightly grease a 9-inch glass pie plate.

Stir together cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

Make a well in the center.

Whisk together the milk and egg.

Pour into the well.

Add the margarine/oil and stir just until mixed.

Spread in the pie plate.

Bake until golden, about 22 minutes.

Cut while warm.

Where Poppies Grow



You'll find twenty words about the First World War in this hidden-word puzzle.
Look for backwards, forwards, horizontal and diagonal spellings.

a	c	w	h	s	r	e	d	n	a	l	f	p	y
d	a	z	z	l	e	s	h	i	p	o	h	p	e
r	t	e	o	c	e	p	y	z	r	l	p	h	s
r	e	p	p	a	s	l	o	u	o	o	a	o	w
a	i	p	o	t	g	v	z	n	p	a	w	i	a
c	k	e	t	n	u	l	i	v	a	e	a	p	g
w	e	l	i	g	z	a	l	e	g	u	i	k	g
t	u	i	n	i	n	g	e	z	a	i	m	d	e
m	o	n	o	s	a	t	r	e	n	c	h	e	r
i	n	f	a	n	t	r	y	m	d	p	k	e	s
h	o	t	z	e	n	r	e	a	a	o	s	l	t
p	m	w	i	d	e	n	z	t	r	s	t	l	i
a	l	l	i	e	s	u	o	a	j	t	e	i	c
r	a	o	s	r	u	n	e	h	i	c	a	v	k
g	i	v	e	r	e	t	c	a	n	a	n	e	n
e	s	p	e	c	i	a	l	r	o	r	y	d	o
l	o	u	t	e	n	o	l	i	n	d	a	u	s
e	c	i	t	s	i	m	r	a	o	z	y	a	u
t	o	e	u	n	d	e	r	u	p	o	n	v	n
t	r	o	p	o	h	s	i	b	y	l	l	i	b

Flanders
trench
poppy
cenotaph

war
telegraph
infantry
Red Ensign

vaudeville
propaganda
Allies
swagger stick

puttees
armistice
Mata Hari
postcard

Zeppelin
dazzle ship
sapper
Billy Bishop



You'll find twenty words about World War I in this hidden word puzzle.
Look for backwards, forwards, horizontal and diagonal spellings.

p e s t a m i n e t o n i a e f v e t o
 v c m a p n o i t a t s g n i s s e r d
 i i h c i l g v c f i s j a z p q a e u
 c t h r g o o v e r t h e t o p i c n c
 t s u o l f n e d e t k b p s o e d c k
 o i p q c n b a s s e r p y r t l n h b
 r m a e b y d j n e b i r t u g p a e o
 y r e l l i t r a a e r i b n r n l a a
 b a f l a n d e r s g h y i e e x s r r
 o y u o r p a t e c v n t c r a i n c d
 n b e u k i p c t b a t e u v t p a c s
 d e r o s o e v e c a i u l n w r m m t
 s h y e t p r c v h h k l e z a p o e r
 e r i f n o b s c r e m e m b r a n c e

Flanders
 trench
 Great War
 bully beef
 duckboards

remembrance
 victory bonds
 go over the top
 no man's land
 artillery

dressing station
 poppies
 Ypres
 larks
 veterans

Bonfire
 chatting
 estaminet
 McCrae
 armistice