

THE ART OF REMEMBRANCE



Art & Design, History



8 - 16 year olds



30 minutes - 6 hours

The National Memorial Arboretum is home to many memorials recognising the sacrifice of those serving in the Armed Services and emergency services. Memorials are just one form of art used to remember those who have served and sacrificed in times of need.

In times of conflict or disruption, artists and designers are also employed to help support the country's response and those serving their country.

Discover some of the ways that art and design are used in times of disruption and to recognise the service given by those in the Armed Services and emergency services. Create some of your own pieces of art to remember those who have sacrificed for their country.

Posters, Publicity and the Public

During times of conflict or disruption, the government uses many different types of publicity to communicate with the general public. Posters, adverts and broadcasts are all used to share information and advice with people, and artists and designers are recruited to help design these.

In the First and Second World War propaganda posters were used to help recruit people and to tell people how to behave while living through the war. Some posters asked people to join the Armed Services or organisations such as the Women's Land Army, which saw women work on farms to help feed the nation.



ACTIVITY: Second World War Thank You Poster

Seventy-five years ago, in 1945, the Second World War came to an end and many soldiers, sailors and airmen returned home. Design a poster to thank those who served on the Front Line and to welcome them home.

HINT: Look up wartime propaganda posters. Can you design your poster in a similar style?

EXTENSION: Media Today

Today, we are living in challenging circumstances. The outbreak of Covid-19 has caused a lot of uncertainty among the public and put extra pressure on those working in the emergency services.

How has the government used publicity to share information and recruit people during the outbreak of Covid-19? What is the government trying to achieve through its publicity? Are there any similarities between the methods that are being used now and those that were used in the First and Second World War?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Write a script for a radio advert thanking those serving in the emergency services for their hard work and dedication during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Camouflage and Colour

Before the First World War, soldiers wore bright colours. However, in the First World War people realised that they would have an advantage if their opponents could not see them as clearly. New uniforms were designed that would help soldiers to blend into their environment. The designs and patterns used to help soldiers disappear into their environment are known as camouflage. Soldiers, sailors and airmen have worn camouflage ever since.

In the First World War, ships were also decorated to help them blend into the background and help them avoid enemy attacks. These ships were called dazzle ships. Other vehicles and machines such as tanks are also decorated in camouflage.

Animals are also camouflaged into their background to avoid their enemies.

Look at this owl, moth and zebra.



OWL

MOTH



ZEBRA



ACTIVITY:

Look out of your window. What colours can you see in your area? Design a camouflage pattern using these colours.

HINT: Use different colours and patterns.

EXTENSION: Emergency Service Colours

Unlike those serving in the Armed Services, people serving in the emergency services often need to be seen so wear bold and bright colours and highly visible clothes. Similarly, the vehicles they drive such as police cars, ambulances and fire engines are easy to see.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Why do you think it's important for the emergency services to be clearly visible during an emergency?

Japanese Peace Cranes



Early in May 1945, Nazi Germany surrendered and the war in Europe was over. Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8 May 1945 saw people across Britain and the Commonwealth celebrate the end of the conflict in Europe and remember those who had sacrificed for their country. However, in the Far East the war with Japan continued and many people were still serving overseas. The war with Japan did not end until 15 August 1945, by which time two atomic bombs had been dropped on the country killing thousands and injuring many more.

Two-year old Sadako lived in Japan during the war and was only two kilometers away from Hiroshima when an atomic bomb was dropped on the city. It did not kill Sadako but the radiation from it led to her being diagnosed with leukemia when she was ten years old. Inspired by an old Japanese legend, Sadako decided to fold 1000 paper cranes in the hope that she would get well again. When she died she had folded 644. Her classmates made the remaining 356 paper cranes. Since then, origami cranes have become a symbol of peace and are known as peace cranes.

ACTIVITY:

Using a square of paper, make a peace crane. Instructions can be found at: <https://cnduk.org/education/free-teaching-resources/sadakos-cranes/>