

### The Tower of London Poppies

A majestic sea of red poppies now surrounds the Tower of London in London. The display called 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' is in the Tower of London moat. It marks the First World War centenary.

Thousands and thousands of people have visited the display, by artist Paul Cummins, with huge queues forming; such has been the popularity of it. All four sides of the dry moat surrounding the fortress are now blanketed in a sea of scarlet red.

When the sea of poppies is completed there will be a total of 888,246 flowers. Each represents a death of a British and Colonial soldier. The poppies have been individually planted by an army of 8,000 volunteers.

The planting is still going on. The last poppy is due to be planted on Armistice Day on November 11. The following day the Tower of London will be selling the clay made flowers for £25 each.

The money raised will be split between six service charities. These include Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and Cobseo and the Confederation of Service Charities.

The sea of poppies has caught the imagination of the public. Even the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were impressed with the display when they visited it recently.

The blood-red poppy was one of the few flowers to grow on the barren battlefields of Flanders. It became the symbol of remembrance of the blood sacrifice made by those who died so we may live.

The poppy display is currently Britain's top tourist attraction. Visitors to London should note the nearest tube station to the Tower of London is Tower Hill.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Tower of London. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

### Student A questions

- 1) How many volunteers were there?
- 2) Explain the use of the number 888,246.
- 3) Name the tower.
- 4) Where is Flanders?
- 5) Name the tube station.

### Student B questions

- 1) Where are poppies situated in the tower?
- 2) Name three of the charities.
- 3) Which famous people visited the poppies?
- 4) Why did the poppy become the symbol of remembrance?
- 5) Name the artist.

## The Tower of London Poppies - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**The Tower of London**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Write down three points from the article about the Tower of London Poppies. Talk about them.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three ideas of your own about Armistice Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

*The teacher* will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*As a class / In pairs* – Think of ten things you know about **World War One**. Discuss together. *5 mins.*

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever visited the Tower of London? If yes, when?
- 3) Will you be visiting London this year?
- 4) Would you like to buy a poppy that has been in the moat to help the service charities?
- 5) Why do we buy poppies?
- 6) How important is the 11<sup>th</sup> November?
- 7) Would you have liked to have been a soldier during the Great War?
- 8) Was any of your family killed during World War One? Explain.
- 9) Will you be paying your respects on the 11<sup>th</sup> November?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the *Radio London* radio studio. Today's interview is: *The Tower of London Poppies*. *10 mins.*

- 1) The artist Paul Cummins.
- 2) A tourist.
- 3) A beekeeper at the Tower of London.
- 4) A tour guide.

*The teacher* will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* *Student A* is thinking of going to visit the Tower of London poppies. *Student B* is also thinking of going. How will you get there? Start a conversation together... *5-mins.*

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

*In pairs* – **A day as a soldier in World War One.** Imagine you are both soldiers during World War One. Describe a day in the trenches. You are both killed when you go over the top. *5 mins.*

*The teacher* can get some students to describe their day.

### SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

*Allow 5 minutes* – As a class.

Armistice Day – 11 <sup>th</sup> November
---

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What makes this year's commemoration of the Great War special?
- 3) Would you like to see the poppies in the Tower of London moat?
- 4) Were any of your family involved in the Great War? Explain briefly.
- 5) Do you give money to charity?
- 6) Will you be wearing a poppy this year?
- 7) What did the Great War achieve?
- 8) Think of three things you can see at the Tower of London.
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## The Tower of London Poppies - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014

### GAP FILL: READING

#### The Tower of London Poppies

A (1)\_\_\_ sea of red poppies now surrounds the Tower of London in London. The display called 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' is in the Tower of London moat. It marks the First World War (2)\_\_\_.

Thousands and thousands of people have visited the display, by artist Paul Cummins, with huge (3)\_\_\_ forming; such has been the popularity of it. All four sides of the dry (4)\_\_\_ surrounding the (5)\_\_\_ are now blanketed in a sea of (6)\_\_\_ red.

When the sea of poppies is completed there will be a total of 888,246 flowers. Each represents a death of a British and Colonial soldier. The poppies have been individually planted by an army of 8,000 volunteers.

The planting is still going on. The last (7)\_\_\_ is due to be planted on Armistice Day on November 11. The following day the Tower of London will be selling the (8)\_\_\_ made flowers for £25 each.

**poppy / majestic / scarlet / queues / fortress / moat / clay / centenary**

The money raised will be (1)\_\_\_ between six service charities. These include Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and Cobseo and the Confederation of Service Charities.

The (2)\_\_\_ of poppies has caught the (3)\_\_\_ of the public. Even the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were impressed with the (4)\_\_\_ when they visited it recently.

The blood-red poppy was one of the (5)\_\_\_ flowers to grow on the barren battlefields of Flanders. It became the (6)\_\_\_ of (7)\_\_\_ of the blood sacrifice made by those who died so we may live.

The poppy (8)\_\_\_ is currently Britain's top tourist attraction. Visitors to London should note the nearest tube station to the Tower of London is Tower Hill.

**imagination / split / display / remembrance / symbol / display / sea / few**

### GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

#### The Tower of London Poppies

(1)\_\_\_ majestic sea of red poppies now surrounds the Tower of London in London. The display called 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' is in the Tower (2)\_\_\_ London moat. It marks the First World War centenary.

Thousands and thousands of people have visited the display, by artist Paul Cummins, with huge queues forming; (3)\_\_\_ has been the popularity of it. All four sides of the dry moat surrounding the fortress are now blanketed (4)\_\_\_ a sea of scarlet red.

When the sea of poppies is completed there will be a total of 888,246 flowers. Each represents a death of a British and Colonial soldier. The poppies have been individually planted (5)\_\_\_ an army of 8,000 volunteers.

The planting is (6)\_\_\_ going on. The last poppy is due to be planted (7)\_\_\_ Armistice Day on November 11. The following day the Tower of London will be selling the clay made flowers (8)\_\_\_ £25 each.

**for / such / still / a / in / by / on / of**

The money raised will be split between six service charities. (1)\_\_\_ include Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and Cobseo and the Confederation of Service Charities.

The sea of poppies has caught the imagination of the public. (2)\_\_\_ the Queen (3)\_\_\_ the Duke of Edinburgh were impressed (4)\_\_\_ the display (5)\_\_\_ they visited it recently.

(6)\_\_\_ blood-red poppy was one of the few flowers to grow on the barren battlefields of Flanders. It became the symbol of remembrance of the blood sacrifice made (7)\_\_\_ those who died so we may live.

The poppy display is currently Britain's top tourist attraction. Visitors to London (8)\_\_\_ note the nearest tube station to the Tower of London is Tower Hill.

**should / even / these / when / with / by / the / and**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### The Tower of London Poppies

A \_\_\_\_\_ poppies now surrounds the Tower of London in London. The display called 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' is in the Tower of London moat. It marks the First World War centenary.

\_\_\_\_\_ of people have visited the display, by artist Paul Cummins, with huge queues forming; such has been the popularity of it. All four sides of the dry moat surrounding the fortress are now blanketed \_\_\_\_\_.

When the sea of poppies is completed there will be a total of 888,246 flowers. Each represents a death of a \_\_\_\_\_ soldier. The poppies have been individually planted by an army of 8,000 volunteers.

The planting is still going on. The last poppy is due to be planted on Armistice Day on November 11. The following day \_\_\_\_\_ will be selling the clay made flowers for £25 each.

The money raised \_\_\_\_\_ six service charities. These include Combat Stress, Coming Home, Help for Heroes, the Royal British Legion, SSAFA and Cobseo and the Confederation of Service Charities.

\_\_\_\_\_ has caught the imagination of the public. Even the Queen and \_\_\_\_\_ were impressed with the display when they visited it recently.

The blood-red poppy was one of the few flowers to grow on the barren battlefields of Flanders. It became the \_\_\_\_\_ of the blood sacrifice made by those who died so we may live.

\_\_\_\_\_ currently Britain's top tourist attraction. Visitors to London should note the nearest tube station to the Tower of London is Tower Hill.

**www.newsflashenglish.com**

Copyright D.J. Robinson 2014 (V1)

## WRITING/SPEAKING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - In pairs, as a class - write down **20 things you might see at the Tower of London**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The poppies \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The Tower \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The centenary \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The Tower of London Poppies**. Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) majestic
- 2) centenary
- 3) queues
- 4) moat
- 5) fortress
- 6) scarlet
- 7) poppy
- 8) clay

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) majestic
- 2) few
- 3) poppy
- 4) display
- 5) blood
- 6) moat
- 7) centenary
- 8) thousands
- 9) artist
- 10) queues

### ANSWERS

- 1) split
- 2) sea
- 3) imagination
- 4) display
- 5) few
- 6) symbol
- 7) remembrance
- 8) display

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) scarlet
- 12) each
- 13) soldier
- 14) individually
- 15) volunteers
- 16) imagination
- 17) public
- 18) battlefields
- 19) remembrance
- 20) barren

The Tower of London Poppies - *5<sup>th</sup> November 2014*