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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/11/14

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.

**Category: London / Tower of London / Poppy Display
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

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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 11th 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 11th 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 11th 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 beefeater 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 th 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?

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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.

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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 - *5th November 2014*