Memorial Day Poppy

Make a Poppy Flower

Grade Level: 2-6

Classroom Time: 1 class period

Materials:
- Scissors
- White glue
- Buddy Poppies
- Red tissue paper
- Large green chenille stems

Objectives:
1. Given instructions and materials, students will make a Memorial Day poppy.

Teacher’s introduction to the material:
The red poppy has become a symbol of Memorial Day thanks to VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). This is an easy way to make your own. Make sure the students understand that they cannot call their poppy a “Buddy Poppy”.

Instruction:
1. Read _Buddy Poppies_.
2. Cut red tissue paper into 4 inch squares.
3. Fold the square into quarters.
4. Fold it further diagonally from the center corner (Figure 1).
5. Cut a round corner to make the curved petals (Figure 2).
6. Unfold your paper, you should have a circle with a scalloped edge, (Figure 3).
7. Poke a green chenille stem through the center of your flower to make a stem.
8. Curl the top end of the pipe cleaner to make the poppy’s center and so it won't slip off.
9. Put a dab of glue under the flower where the pipe cleaner goes through to secure it.
10. Ask students to wear their poppy and for one student to read _In Flander’s Field_, as the other students stand.

Skills: Art, History, Reading comprehension

Vocabulary: VFW

Buddy Poppies

The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

During the 1923 encampment, the VFW decided that VFW "Buddy"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

It is likely that the poppy was adopted as the symbol for the VFW because of a poem written by John McCrae called “In Flander’s Field.

**In Flander's Field**

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