

Poppy in the Window

May require parent/teacher/guardian help.

In May 2020, a movement called “Hearts in the Window” spread across the world. People hung homemade, painted hearts on their windows as a sign of solidarity to their neighbours during the stressful times of COVID-19. Through months of isolation, this simple message of warmth and friendship, offered a simple message of hope, that we would get through this together.

Many Canadians continue to stay home; parents working from home, kids attending school at home, and weekly home grocery deliveries. This has become the new normal. Many malls, salons, and restaurants have reopened, but the anxiety of being in public is still very high for many of us. “Lest we forget” may face a great risk. As we approach Remembrance Day this year, we must not forget the poppy.

“Poppy in the Window” will mimic the “Hearts in the Window” movement. Since we might not wear our poppies – and see other’s poppies – as often as other years, we need to pivot and adjust. The beauty of this campaign is that anyone can make poppies – what a great way to teach children about the war while offering a creative outlet. For a simple activity, downloading and printing poppies is another option: see template in [Index e](#).

Suggested Supplies

- Markers/paint/crayons/pencil crayons/dye/food dye/etc. (Anything that will colour an item red and black)
- Paper/cardboard (from deliveries, food boxes, etc.)/book pages (get permission from owner first!)/paper towel/felt/yarn/coffee filters/paper plate (anything that can be cut or painted on to make poppy shapes).
- Paint brushes/Styrofoam cups/thumbs/foam/old toothbrushes (anything that can help get the colour to the canvas).

Suggested Projects

- Paper poppies ([Index a](#))
- Tissue paper/paper towel poppies ([Index b](#))
- Window covered in a variety of different poppies ([Index c](#))
- Wreaths (for doors or windows) ([Index d](#))
- Finger painted poppies

No two poppies in nature are the identical and a project like this will allow people to exercise their individual creativity while contributing to a larger social collective – something we all need right now. We all have different memories of standing at our local cenotaphs with parents and grandparents or school assemblies with teachers and friends – and our poppies this year should symbolize our need to be together during times of great crisis. Each poppy has a story to tell – and this year, the telling is so very important – and so very different.

Steps for cutting the outline for a poppy: (See [Index e](#))

1. Cut out the leaves, these usually have a flatter end.
2. Cut the inside circle out. This can be round, or with frayed edges.
3. Attach the petals and circle to where the petals meet in the middle.
4. Repeat as much as necessary.

If making the poppies out of yarn, you can either glue the yarn to the page in the same shapes as above or try knitting/crocheting poppies if you know how to.

*See [References and Resources: Activities](#) for a few activity pages for younger students.

a) Painted Poppies

White cardstock, red paint, black paint.

Large brush strokes and a dot in the center, add little amounts of black to change the darkness of the red.



b) Painted Tissue Paper/Paper Towel Poppy

Cut large rectangular squares then glue them together at the bottom. Then glue the black square into the middle of the four pieces.



c) Poppies in the Window

Make as many poppies as you can, then tape them all over a window.



d) Poppy Wreaths

These wreaths are student examples from previous years.



e) Poppy Stencil

Both images have been created by the Royal Canadian Regiment Museum and are available for use.

