



## Handicraft

For our handicraft lesson, we will sew felt pansies based on the paper pansies worn in Great Britain on Remembrance Day (celebrated on November 11th each year) in honor of armed forces members who have died in the line of duty.

Several years ago, we were in England in November, and ladies were selling paper poppies. I bought a "bouquet" of them to bring back to the States.

The tradition of wearing paper poppies on Remembrance Day in Britain has its roots in the aftermath of World War I. The poppy, a bright red flower, became symbolically associated with the conflict due to the famous war poem "In Flanders Fields," written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, where he described how poppies grew amidst the graves of soldiers in war-ravaged fields.

*"I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs ... he's an all-around craftsman."*

~ Exodus 31:3-5

Handicraft Lesson

# Felt Poppy Pin



As the story goes, during World War I, after a particularly bloody battle in the fields of Flanders in Belgium, thousands of bright red flowers appeared.

Inspired by this, an American teacher, Moina Michael, started making silk poppies to raise funds for ex-servicemen. Visiting delegates from the Royal British Legion saw this and decided to sell poppies in the UK to raise funds to support veterans.

The first British "Poppy Day" was held in 1919, and the tradition continues to this day, with millions of paper poppies sold each year to support veterans and their families.





## Supplies

- Craft felt (red & green)
- Small black button
- Locking brooch pin (a safety pin can be substituted)
- Needle and black thread
- Scissors
- 2 straight pins
- Poppy & leaf pattern

## Directions

1. Carefully cut out the patterns (next page).
2. Using the straight pins, secure the poppy pattern to the red felt and the leaf pattern to the green felt, then cut out each shape.
3. Position the leaf behind the poppy, then center the button on top of the poppy.
4. Sew on the button, making sure to go all the way through to the leaf.
5. Sew on the brooch pin, securing it to the back of the leaf only. (Do not sew through to the poppy.)





## Poppy & Leaf Patterns

