

# In Flander's Fields

## Canadian Poem Invented by John McCrae

© Monique Martin [www.moniqueart.com](http://www.moniqueart.com) Georges Vanier School, Saskatoon



### Objectives

- understand that *line, colour, texture, shape, form,* and *space* comprise the basic language of visual art
- recognize complementary colours as being opposite each other on the colour wheel
- examine the types of balance (e.g., symmetrical, asymmetrical/informal, radial)
- demonstrate the ability to perceive visual details, and include details to enhance depictions of plants, animals, people, and objects
- understand that they can get ideas from such sources as memory, research, observation, feelings, or imagination
- become increasingly self-aware in decision making about methods and materials
- understand that they are communicating meaning through own art work
- understand that it is better to put the focal point away from the centre of the painting (rule of thirds)



### **Materials**

Large paper for painting on  
Liquid Tempera Paint  
Small pieces of mat board ( 2 x 2” squares)  
Chopsticks  
Images of poppies  
Copy of poem – In Flanders’s Fields  
Small low sided dishes for holding paint

### **Background Information**

Canadian Veterans Affairs has some wonderful Biographical information on John McCrae <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/firstwar/mccrae>

## **In Flanders Fields** **By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)** **Canadian Army**

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.



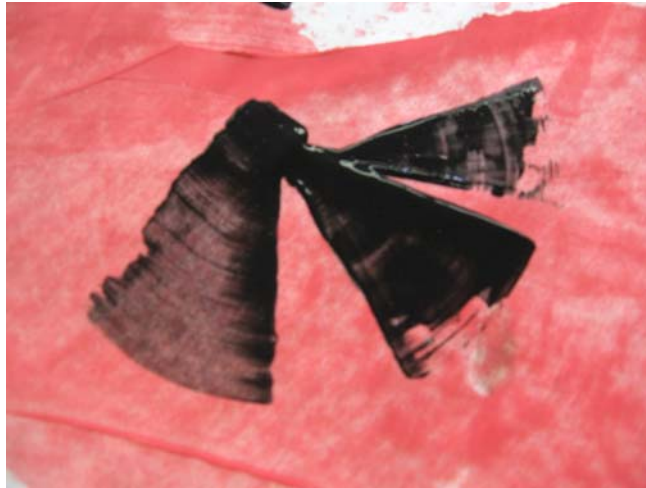
### **Resources**

Georges Vanier Webpage: <http://www.scs.sk.ca/van/poppies%202-3.html>

### **Procedure**

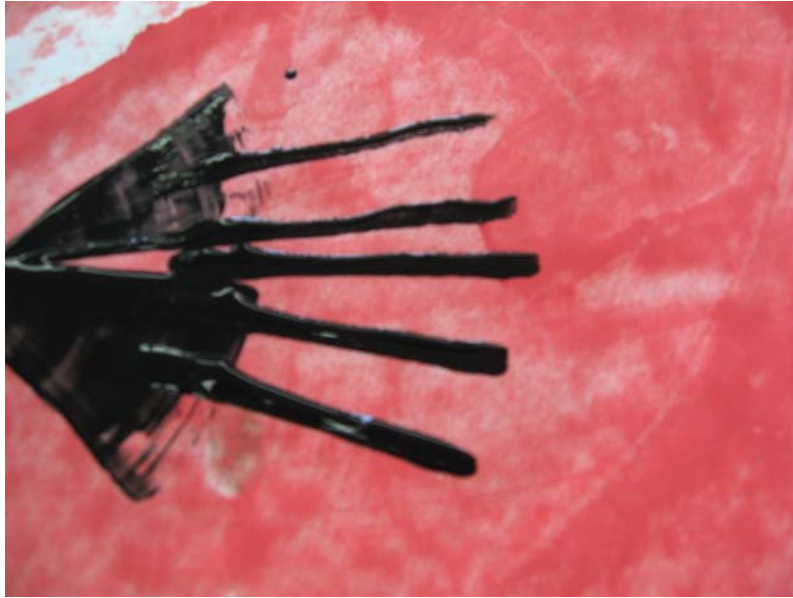
1. Introduce the poem by John McCrae and some of the biographical information about his life.
2. Talk to the children about poppies and how they are fleeting in nature and don't last long as a flower in a field and even less time when you pick them so they are a perfect symbol for those who gave their life for peace. If possible show them the fragile nature of a poppy petal and the thin paper like quality to the petals.

3. Show them images of poppies so that they can see the delicate nature of the petals, the wrinkles and the folds. Have them identify the shapes and forms they see in the center of the poppy.
4. On small pieces of paper have them sketch what they see as a poppy. It is important compositionally not to place the poppy directly in the centre of the page. It is better to have it offset a little bit. Also if they are making more than one, and odd number of poppies is better than an even number. It is a good idea with little ones to write the odd number 1, 3, 5, 7 on the board so that they can use it as reference.
5. Transfer the sketch once they are happy with it to a large paper.
6. Paint in red, yellow, green, black and white would be placed in small containers (with low sides) on the table.
7. Using a small chunk of cardboard the children dip in into the red paint and begin to drag the cardboard on the petal area of the flower to create the petals. I encourage them to leave as much of paint trail on the paper as possible because it creates texture. I also get them to jiggle the cardboard at the edge of the petals to create a jagged edge similar to a poppy.
8. Using the cardboard on edge the children create the fanlike shapes in the center of the poppy.



9. The children then use the side of the cardboard again to create the little furry like bits that extend from the center of the poppy.





10. They use the end of the chopstick to create the round tops on the fur like parts in the center of the flower.



11. Using white and orange they create some highlights on the petals.
12. Using more than one kind of green they create a highly textured background.
13. These pictures take a long time to dry.
14. Title

