

# Using *Check Link Connect* questions during reading

## Connect questions

'Connect' questions are about helping pupils make global inferences, where they draw upon their knowledge from outside a given text in order to infer meaning and develop their understanding.

For the sake of fluency, it is sensible to ask less of these questions. Some 'connect' questions might be suitable for no hands questioning with individuals, while others might be appropriate for the whole class, using mini whiteboards or paired talk. This would likely be based on the complexity of the question and how the teacher deems its importance.



*The First World War was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. Also known as the Great War or 'the war to end all wars', it led to the mobilisation of more than 70 million military personnel. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, with an estimated 8.5 million combatant deaths and 13 million civilian deaths.*

After the first paragraph, asking 'Why was WWI known as 'the war to end all wars?'' asks pupils to connect their knowledge of the death toll, but also the unprecedented nature of the event and the impact it had on so many lives and events forthwith.

At the end of the article, we might ask 'What is the importance of commemoration?'; to guide pupils to connect their newfound knowledge of vocabulary and information in the text with their understanding of loss, grief, sacrifice in continued wars across the world.

## Summary

For all of the above, it is vital that teachers are judicious in choosing which questions to ask, how many, and when, being careful to balance questioning with the flow and fluency of reading. This is not straightforward, and depends on the text, pupils' knowledge of the topic, and their ability as readers.

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## Check Link Connect exemplar

### Key

- Check
- Link
- Connect

## Every One Remembered

### Background

- 1 The First World War was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to
- 2 11 November 1918. Also known as the Great War or 'the war to end all wars,' it led to the
- 3 **mobilisation** of more than 70 million military personnel. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in
- 4 history, with an estimated 8.5 million combatant deaths and 13 million civilian deaths.

*Where did WWI originate?*

*How long did it last?*

*What does 'it' refer to?*

*Give two consequences.*

*Why was WWI known as 'the war to end all wars'?*

### What is Armistice Day?

- 5 **Armistice** Day is on 11th November every year and is known as Remembrance Day. It marks the
- 6 day World War One ended, at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month (November) in 1918. The
- 7 anniversary is used to remember all people who have died in wars – not just World War One. This
- 8 includes World War Two, the Falklands War, The Gulf War and conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

*When is*

*Remembrance Day?*

*What is Remembrance*

*Day used for?*

- 9 On Remembrance Day, we **commemorate** the courage and sacrifice of those who served their
- 10 country and acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought hard to achieve.
- 11 Over one million British and Commonwealth soldiers lost their lives during the long four years of
- 12 the First World War. Around 1.25 million were wounded, and a fifth of those disabled for life.

*How many soldiers*

*lost their lives in WWI?*

*What did they fight*

*hard for?*

- 13 It is called Armistice Day as the Armistice is what was signed by Germany and the **Entente** to end
- 14 WWI. Many countries changed the name of the holiday to Remembrance Day during the Second
- 15 World War, so it could include people who were lost during that time and the wars that followed.

*Who does people who 'served*

*their country' refer to?*

*What does 'Armistice' mean?*

- 16 Remembrance Sunday is marked each year and falls on the second Sunday in November. On this
- 17 day, there are usually ceremonies at war memorials, **cenotaphs** and churches throughout the
- 18 country as well as abroad. The Royal Family and top politicians gather at The Cenotaph in
- 19 Whitehall, London, for a memorial service.

*Why is 11th November*

*mostly better known as*

*Remembrance Day?*

*Why would the Royal Family and top politicians gather at The Cenotaph on Remembrance Day?*

### Glossary

**Armistice:** a formal agreement between countries at war to stop fighting

**Cenotaph:** an empty monument built in honour of people whose remains are elsewhere

**Commemorate:** the act of remembering or showing respect for something

**Entente:** the informal understanding between Russian Empire, France and Great Britain

**Mobilisation:** the action of a country organising its soldiers for fighting