

# Poppy Emoji Proposal

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Figure 1: A colour poppy.  
([available via OpenClipArt](#))

## Abstract:

This is an emoji proposal to the Unicode Consortium for the addition of a poppy flower emoji.

According to [Wikipedia](#), the poppy is a common flower found throughout Europe and the North America. There are many species of poppy, however this proposal in particular focuses on the *Papaver rhoeas* genus which is associated with war remembrance due to the abundance of them in Flanders, Belgium which served as inspiration for the poem *In Flanders Fields*.



Figure 2: A *Papaver rhoeas* flower ([source](#))

The poppy as a symbol of war remembrance is international, however a large usage of the symbol is on Remembrance Day (also called Armistice Day), a large event in most Commonwealth countries. Remembrance Day is an annual event each 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00 which provides both remembrance to those who have perished at war and fundraising to war-related charities such as The British Legion (of which selling wearable plastic poppies is one of the charity's main sources of income).



Figure 3: A British Legion remembrance poppy. These are mainly sold by volunteers several weeks before Remembrance Day itself, though can also be purchased any time of the year online.



Figure 4: A large amount of poppies laid down at The Cenotaph memorial in London ([source](#))

There are also many poppy artwork installations such as a large quilt and the *Weeping Window* where a stream of ceramic poppies flowed from a window to the ground symbolising blood.



Figure 5: *Weeping Window* sculpture at the Tower of London ([source](#))

Relevant to the emoji proposal is that many individuals and organisations commemorate this event as shown by the consistent usage of the `#remembranceday`, `#armisticeday` and `#lestweforget` hashtags on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter ([source](#)).

As a final point, the emoji specification already includes many different common flowers including the sunflower (🌻), rose (🌹), hibiscus (🌺), tulip (🌷) and cherry blossom (🌸). Many of these flowers are also associated with events such as Valentine's Day and Hanami (Cherry Blossom Festival).

## Introduction:

## Identification:

The suggested short name and keywords for the emoji, as in the Emoji List are:

- poppy
- poppy, remembrance, flower

## Images:

For this proposal I have supplied a colour and black white graphic of a concept poppy emoji. The following images are available in the public domain and therefore are appropriate for the Unicode Consortium to reuse. A key feature that the final design needs to show is the red petals the black stamen.

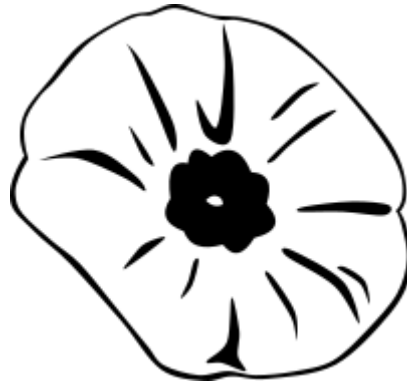


Figure 6: A black and white poppy.

### **Selection factors:**

#### **Inclusion:**

#### **Compatibility:**

N/A

#### **Expected usage level:**

Given the social media presence related to Remembrance Day I would expect it to be frequently used by those posting related tweets and messages.

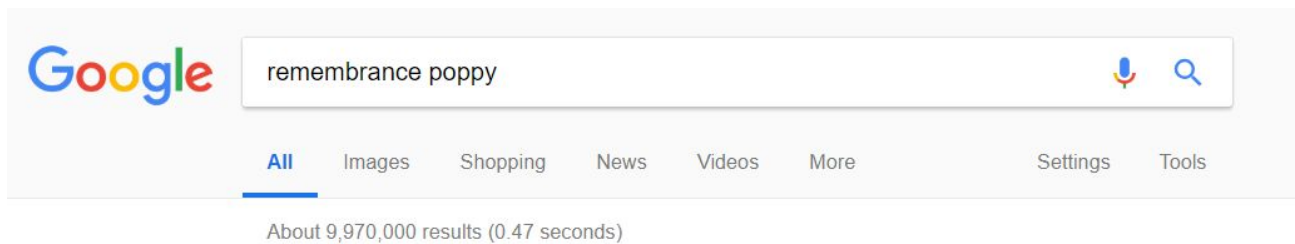
#### **Frequency:**

A poppy emoji would have potential to be used by people all over the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and anywhere else that commemorates Armistice Day using the poppy as a symbol. Some public areas such as churches and memorials display the poppy all year round.

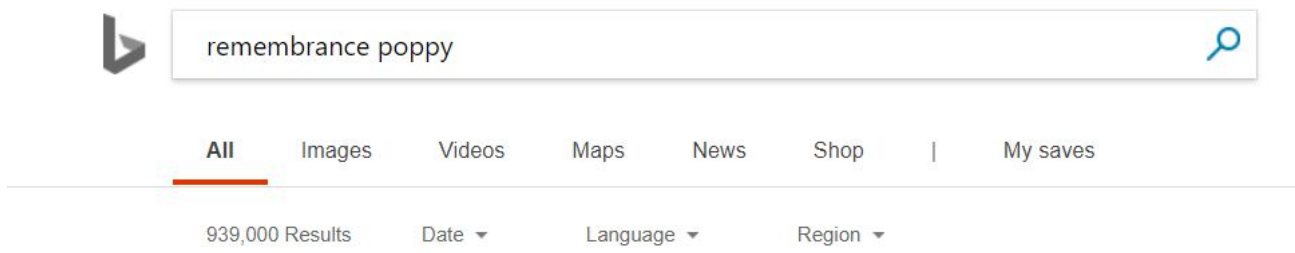
The emoji could also have potential to be used in any instance that requires a poppy including flower bouquets.



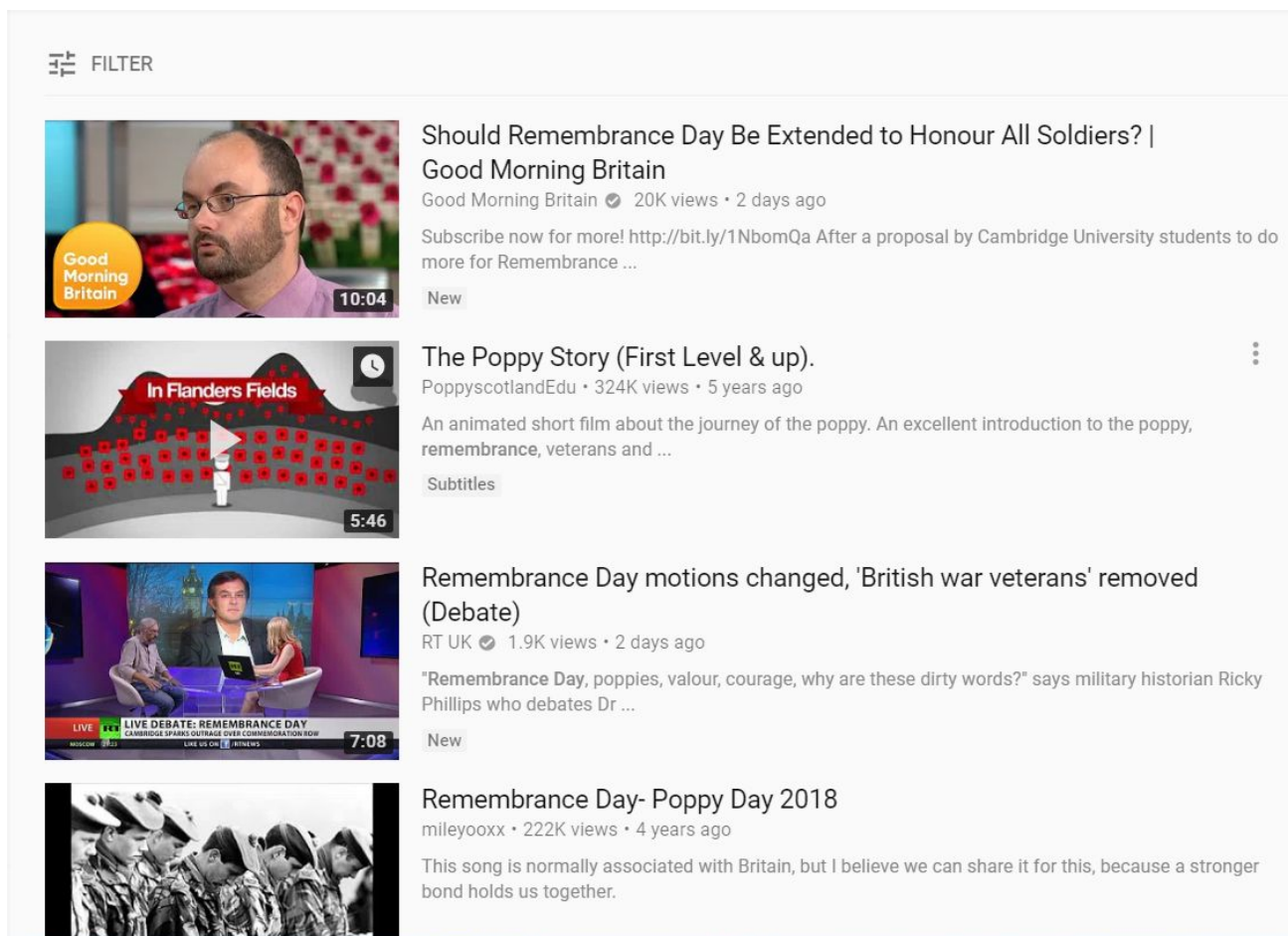
On Google's UK site, the query "remembrance poppy" shows around 9,700,000 results.



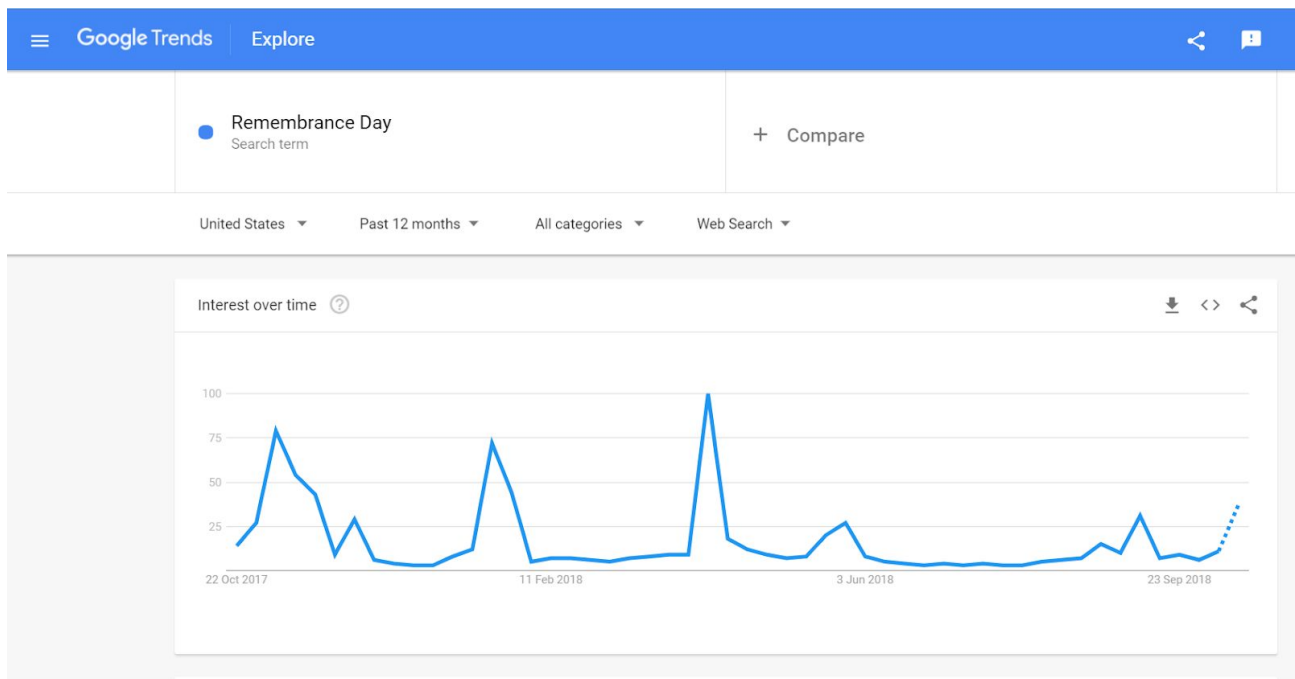
Likewise on Bing's UK site, the query "remembrance poppy" shows around 939,000 results.



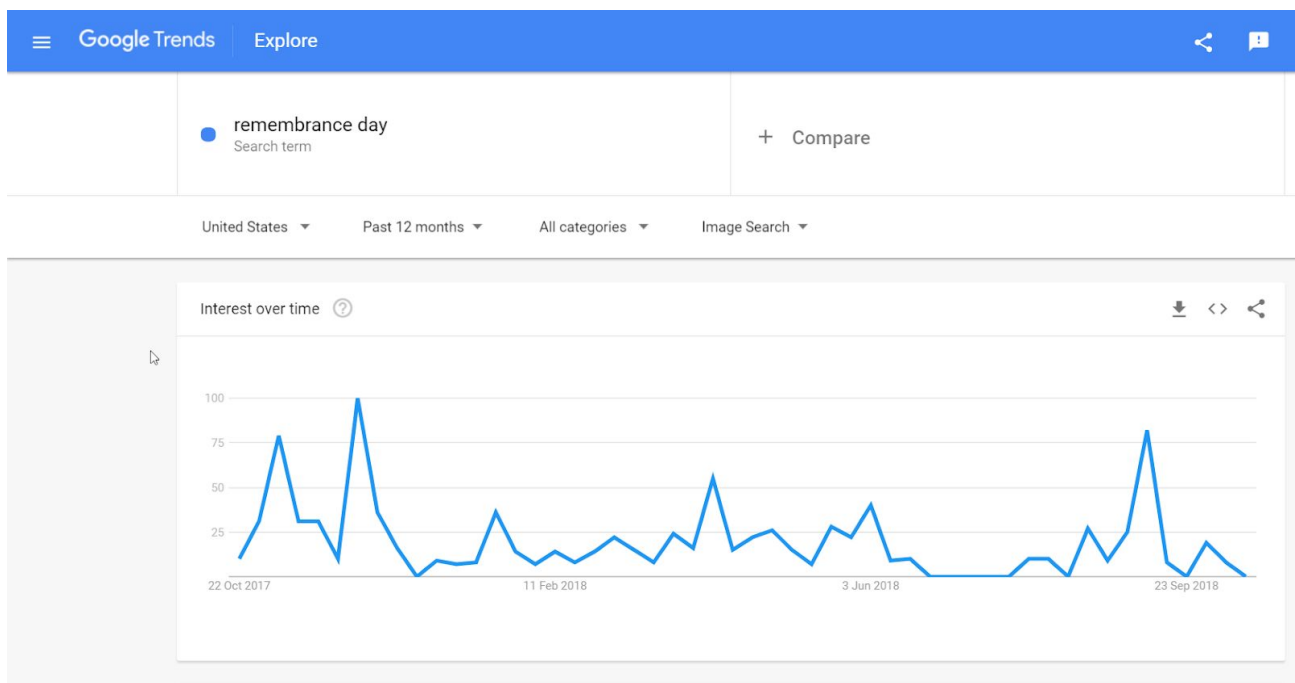
On YouTube's UK site, the query "remembrance day" shows the following.



On Google Trends for US web searching the following is shown, with a peak of 100.



On Google Trends for US image searching.






Many public figures and organisations commemorate Remembrance Day across the Commonwealth ([source](#)).

### Multiple usages:

A poppy emoji can be used to signify Remembrance Day, war remembrance or just the flower in general.

## **Use in sequences:**

The poppy could be used along with the folded-hands () or cross () emojis. Perhaps a more nefarious user might use it along with the syringe () emoji to symbolise opiates, but I am doubtful that this would be a common pairing.

## **Image distinctiveness**

### **Completeness**

I would argue that the remembrance poppy could be considered a festive flower of sorts along with the rose for Valentine's Day and the cherry blossom (sakura) for Hanami. Aside from that the remembrance poppy is an isolated symbol.

### **Frequently requested**

There were two petitions ([source](#)) with 365 signatures and ([source](#)) with 82 signatures respectively. Both were presumably setup by individuals who are seemingly unaware of the technicalities of Unicode and the correct process of formally requesting an emoji to be placed within the standard. The arguments made in favour of a poppy emoji stated the significance of Remembrance Day and a desire to communicate that pictorially.

## **Selection factors – Exclusion:**

### **Overly specific**

I would argue the poppy isn't the most common flower to say be gifted or grown at home, but it is notable for Remembrance Day a major event within Commonwealth countries and with an assortment of specific flowers in the Emoji specification already, it's hard for me to argue against its inclusion.

### **Open-ended**

The poppy flower is largest single symbol of remembrance in the UK and other Commonwealth countries.

## **Already representable**

No, the poppy is a distinctive flower with no current Emoji substitute.

## **Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities**

The poppy is a flower and is little different to the other aforementioned flowers that are already represented in emoji.

The artificial 2-petal remembrance poppy flower design is owned by the British Legion and is therefore protected by trademark law, there is even a specific phone number that can be called to report potential unauthorised use ([source](#)). Infact the poppy is such a large part of the British Legion's branding they use the design as part of their logo and have their own online storefront dedicated to poppy-themed merchandise called the *Poppy Shop* ([source](#)).

Despite these protections, the *Papaver rhoeas* flower itself is not protected and would be a good basis for the emoji's design.

## **Transient**

The Remembrance Poppy has been consistently used since the 1920s and with the poppy being symbolically used for remembrance since then. I can see no evidence of its use being transient in nature and Remembrance Day will continue to be commemorated for the foreseeable future.

## **Faulty comparison**

The poppy flower is the distinctive symbol of Remembrance Day and neither myself nor the other petition signees could see a suitable alternative that really conveys that message clearly within the emoji catalogue.

## **Exact image**

I understand there are many standards for emoji designs, infact the Unicode site displays five of those standards for each emoji. As such as it is in my opinion that long as the red petals and black stamen are represented at minimum, I would consider that to be a good poppy emoji design.



I would recommend graphic designers to draw a 3 or 4 petal flower design and be mindful of British Legion's trademarked 2-petal design.

In the UK many individuals make their own poppy designs separate from the British Legion's 2-petal design. For example, knitting is a popular way of doing this ([source](#)) or using clay ([source](#)).



Figure 9: A set of knitted poppies



Figure 10: A set of clay poppies

## Sort location

The poppy would undoubtedly be assigned to the plant-flower section of the emoji specification. As mentioned earlier the poppy is a distinctive flower and as such a faithful poppy emoji needs to demonstrate the red petals and black stamen of the *Papaver rhoeas*.