



In the aftermath of World War I, many of the beautiful regions of Western Europe were left in ruins. Flanders Field, which was the northernmost point of the Western Front during the war, became one of the most devastated regions in the battlefield. What was once the charming countryside of northwestern Belgium had transformed into a depressing field of mud and debris where nothing could grow. And yet, in the spring of 1915, brilliant red poppies began to sprout amongst the remains of fallen soldiers. The sight of these lovely flowers flourishing in such an unlikely place inspired Canadian doctor and poet Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem “In Flanders Fields” in honor of his friend and fellow lieutenant who had died in the conflict.

American professor Moina Michael was so moved by McCrae’s poem that she wrote her own poem titled “We shall keep the faith” in 1918. Michael later campaigned to make the poppy an international symbol of remembrance and welfare for war veterans. She was the first to fashion an artificial poppy out of silk, which she wore in honor of those who fought and helped in the war.

Today, the poppy is still internationally recognized as a symbol of sacrifice and service. Please join the City of Highland Park in our virtual Memorial Day observance this year. Follow the instructions below to make your own paper poppy, then post in your front window in honor of our fallen service men and women.

Visit www.cityhpil.com/memorialday for more ideas to create a meaningful Memorial Day observance this year.

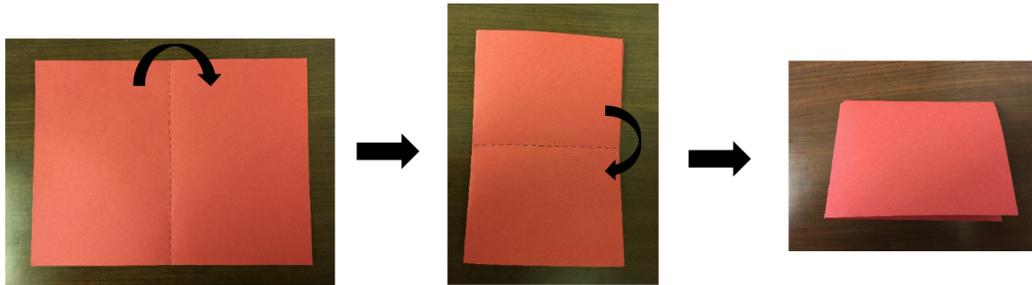
In Flanders Fields
John McCrae

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.

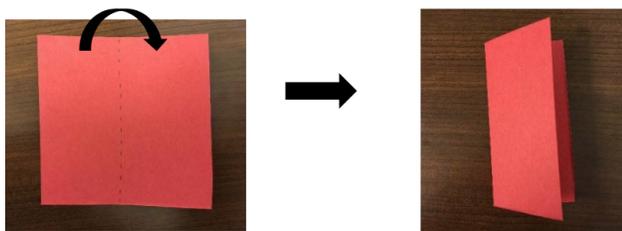
Step One:



Fold the red sheet of paper in half hamburger-style.

Without unfolding the paper, fold it in half hamburger-style once more.

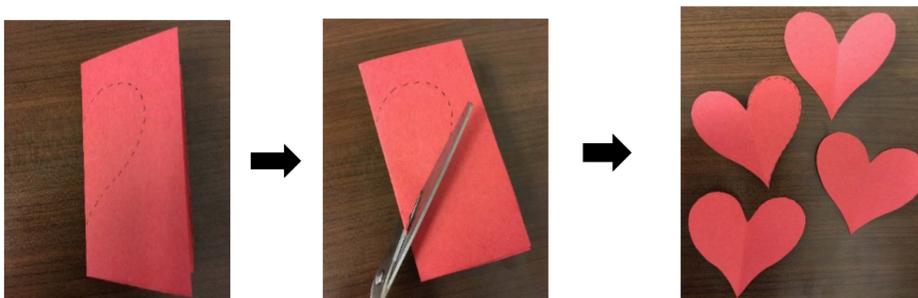
Your folded paper should look like this.



Fold your small rectangle in half one last time.

Your paper should now look like a little book.

Step Two: Cut half of a heart shape along the folded edge of the paper. This should create four identical heart shapes. These are your petals.



Step Three: Assemble all of the petals so that the pointed tips of each heart shape are touching. Glue the petals together.



Step Four: Place a black sticker at the center of your flower.



Step Five: Cut leaf shapes out of green paper and glue to the bottom of your flower.

