

Proposal for Emoji: Poppy

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1. Identification

- A. Proposed Unicode and CLDR Short Name:** poppy
- B. Possible CDLR English keywords:** remembrance, Veterans Day, flower, red, Armistice Day, wildflower
- C. Category:** [Animals & Nature](#), [plant-flower](#)
Sort location: After hyacinth emoji



2. Images

- A. Color and black & white example images:**



- B. License:** I certify that the images have appropriate licenses for use by the Unicode Consortium as they are my creations.

ZIP File: [link](#)

Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of the Poppy Emoji to the Unicode Library.



Introduction

The poppy is a flowering plant found across the globe, known for its vibrant and delicate blooms. Among the many species, the most widely recognized is the red poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), which is native to North Africa and temperate regions of Eurasia. It has also been introduced to temperate areas on all continents except Antarctica. Since World War I, the red poppy has become a powerful symbol of remembrance in many Commonwealth countries. This association stems from its widespread growth in the battle-scarred fields of Flanders, Belgium, where it was one of the common plants to bloom after the devastation of war.^{1 2}

A common red poppy ([source](#))



The poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of war remembrance and hope. Its most widespread use is associated with Remembrance Day—originally known as Armistice Day and referred to as Veterans Day in the United States. Observed annually on the 11th of November at 11:00 a.m., Remembrance Day is a major commemorative event, particularly in Commonwealth countries. It honors those who have lost their lives in military service and also serves as a key moment for raising funds for war-related charities. One such organization is the Royal British Legion, which relies heavily on the sale of wearable plastic remembrance poppies as a primary source of income to support veterans and their families.³



A British Legion remembrance poppy, sold by volunteers several weeks before Remembrance Day itself ([source](#))

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papaver_rhoeas

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poppy>

³

https://support.britishlegion.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/280/~poppy-faqs#:~:text=The%20money%20raised%20during%20the,the%20date%2C%20time%20and%20location



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.

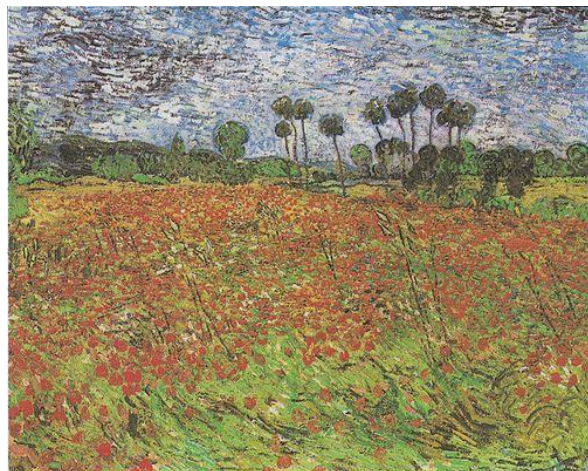
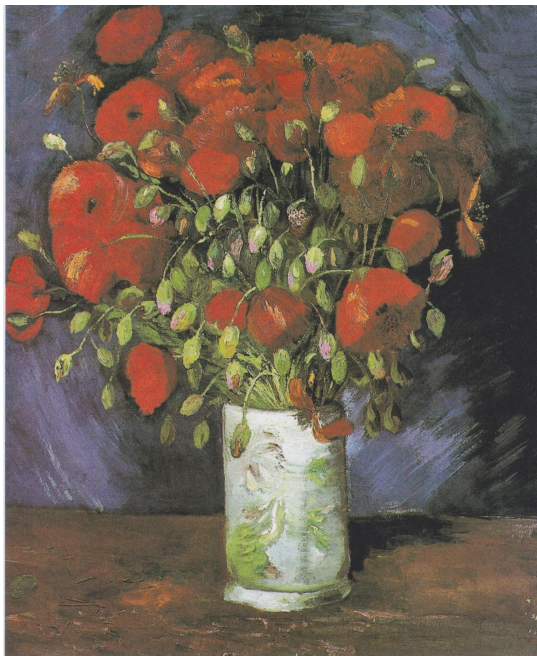
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Flanders Fields by John McCrae ([source](#)), helped establish the red poppy as a lasting symbol of remembrance. The poem describes poppies growing among soldiers' graves in Flanders, highlighting how life continues even in the aftermath of death.

The red poppy symbolizes both the blood of fallen soldiers and the hope of renewal. Its ability to grow in disturbed soil mirrors how remembrance can grow from grief. The poem gives voice to the dead, urging the living to remember their sacrifice and continue their fight. Through this, the poppy becomes a symbol not just of loss, but of resilience, peace, and collective memory.



Another example of the symbolization of the poppy can be found in Stratis Myrivilis' novel *Life in the Tomb*, the most famous work written in Greece on the subject of the First World War in the Macedonian Front. The anti-war novel, presented in the form of letters from a fictional soldier to his fiancée, explores the resilience and trauma of war. At some point, a secret poppy is found in the trenches and is presented as a symbol of the profound appreciation for the preciousness of life. ([source in Greek](#))



Vase with Red Poppies and Poppy Field by Vincent van Gogh

([source](#))

([source](#))



Weeping Window by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper
([source](#))

Beyond their well-known association with World War I remembrance, poppies have held deep symbolic and practical significance throughout history. The poppy provides opium that causes sleep and has been in use since the Neolithic period.⁴ Traces of poppies have been discovered in ancient Egyptian tombs, incorporated into jewelry, and even embedded in furniture, highlighting their cultural value. In funerary rituals, poppies symbolized rebirth and eternal life, a theme echoed across several ancient civilizations, including those of the Romans and Greeks.⁵

In Greek mythology, the red poppy was closely tied to Demeter, the goddess of agriculture, fertility, and the harvest, and was used in her shrines.⁶ Often depicted wearing poppies, Demeter's connection to the flower is rooted in the myth of her daughter, Persephone, who was abducted by Hades, ruler of the Underworld. Stricken with grief, Demeter wandered the earth in search of her daughter, causing crops to fail and the land to grow barren. To ease her suffering, the gods gave her poppies to help her sleep. Eventually, a compromise was struck: Persephone would return to Demeter for nine months each year, while spending the remaining three in the Underworld—thus giving rise to the seasonal cycle and the symbolism of winter as a time of mourning. In this myth, the poppy came to represent sleep, peace, rest, sleep, resurrection and consolation.⁷



Poppy Goddess,
Minoan Crete
([source](#))

Another myth tells of Mecon, a mortal beloved by Demeter, who was transformed into a poppy to protect him. Through such stories, the poppy became one of Demeter's enduring symbols.⁸

The Romans linked poppies to the dead offering it to them. Apart from these examples, it's often linked to dreams, visions, eternal sleep, and pain relief in folklore.⁹

⁴ <https://artofmourning.com/symbolism-sunday-the-poppy/>

⁵ <https://thursd.com/articles/poppy-flower-meaning-symbolism>

⁶ <https://artofmourning.com/symbolism-sunday-the-poppy/>

⁷ <https://www.icysedgwick.com/poppy-folklore/>

⁸ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecon_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecon_(mythology))

⁹ <https://www.icysedgwick.com/poppy-folklore/>



3. Selection factors – Inclusion

A. Expresses multiple concepts/meanings

The poppy emoji could be used to talk about the actual flower, flowers in general, or the color red.

Also, as noted in the [introduction](#), poppies have long been linked with remembrance, a symbolism rooted in their abundance in Flanders Fields, where they blossomed amid the destruction and bloodshed of World War I. The vivid red of their petals came to signify the blood and sacrifice of those who lost their lives in conflict. The red poppy is a symbol of honor and gratitude for their service.

In addition to its wartime associations, the red poppy also embodies resilience and hope. Renowned for their ability to flourish in difficult conditions and disturbed soil, poppies serve as a powerful reminder of the strength of the human spirit, even in the face of hardship and loss. At the same time, they reflect the fleeting nature of life and human vulnerability, while symbolizing the hope for renewal and the determination to overcome obstacles.

B. Can be used with other emoji to convey additional concepts (Use in sequences)

- Veterans Day / Honoring the fallen (remembrance poppy) 🌹 🇺🇸 🏆 🕊️
- Romance / Friendship / Love 🌹 💕 💕
- Opiates 💉 🌹
- Growth after hardship 🌱 🌹
- Fleeting beauty / loss 💔 🌹
- Poppyhead (seed capsule) 🌱 🧑

C. Breaking new ground

Other than the military helmet, saluting face, military medal and older person emoji, there aren't any other emojis effective at communicating, anticipating, or honoring Veterans/Remembrance Day pictorially.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://emojipedia.org/veterans-day>



D. Is legible and visually distinctive

The poppy is distinct from existing images particularly within the flowers group. A highly recognizable flower worldwide. The poppy's black center makes it visually distinct from 🌹 (rose) and its bold red petals differentiate it from 🌷 (tulip), and 🌺 (hibiscus). It would be immediately recognizable, especially in stylized red with a dark center.

E. Has a high usage level

a. Frequency

Usage is expected to be extremely high given how flower emojis are one of, if not, the most frequently used emojis in the "animal and nature" category¹¹, with the rose emoji being the most popular emoji in the "animal and nature" category.¹² A poppy emoji would have potential to be used by people all over the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and anywhere else that commemorates Armistice Day/Veterans Day/Remembrance Day using the poppy as a symbol. Some public areas such as churches and memorials display the poppy all year round.

Please note: I have included data for both "poppy" and "poppy -singer" as searches for "poppy" yielded a mix of results not completely relevant to the flower.

Surprisingly, the "poppy -singer" returned 1.000.000 more results than just "poppy".

¹¹ <https://home.unicode.org/emoji/emoji-frequency/>

¹² https://youtu.be/mgOlp2uUoyM?si=DbIQ_Sq8ZQNE0cMa&t=119



Google Search Results

Term	<i>Google Search</i>
poppy	166,000,000 results
poppy -singer	167,000,000 results
elephant	427,000,000 results

×

[All](#)
[Images](#)
[Short videos](#)
[Videos](#)
[News](#)
[Forums](#)
[Web](#)
[More ▾](#)
[Tools ▾](#)

Poppy
 American singer

[Overview](#)
[Songs](#)
[Events](#)
[Albums](#)

Any time ▸
 All results ▸
[Advanced Search](#)

About 166,000,000 results (0.39s)

×

[All](#)
[Images](#)
[Videos](#)
[Short videos](#)
[News](#)
[Forums](#)
[Web](#)
[More ▾](#)
[Tools ▾](#)

The Royal British Legion
<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk> › ... › Remembrance

[All about the poppy | Remembrance | Royal British Legion](#)
 Our red poppy is a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. Poppies are worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community.

Any time ▸
 All results ▸
[Advanced Search](#)

About 167,000,000 results (0.39s)

×

[All](#)
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[Short videos](#)
[Forums](#)
[News](#)
[Web](#)
[More ▾](#)
[Tools ▾](#)

See results about

Elephants
 Animal

Any time ▸
 All results ▸
[Advanced Search](#)

Elephant

About 427,000,000 results (0.39s)



Google Video Search Results

Term	<i>Google Video Search</i>
poppy	41,700,000 results
poppy -singer	38,000,000 results
elephant	90,800,000 results

Google

poppy

Go to Google Home

All Images Short videos **Videos** News Forums Web More

Tools

Any duration

Any time

Any quality

All videos

Any source

Advanced Search

About 41,700,000 results (0.27s)

www.youtube.com › channel

Improbably Poppy

Music videos · Poppy - New Way Out (Official Visualizer) · Poppy - the cost of giving up (Official Visualizer) · Poppy - they're all around us (Official ...

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All videos

Any source

Advanced Search

About 38,000,000 results (0.20s)

www.youtube.com › watch

How to Automate ANY Content with Poppy and n8n (no code)

This is UNFAIR

Code NATE25 - Get \$25 OFF Poppy AI: <https://nateherk-cleverprogrammer.thrivecart.com/poppy-ai-checkout/> Want my full course o...

YouTube · Nate Herk | AI Automation · 5 days ago

www.youtube.com › watch

POPPY AI: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE - (PART 1)

Google

elephant

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Tools

Any duration

Any time

Any quality

All videos

Any source

Advanced Search

About 90,800,000 results (0.25s)

www.youtube.com › watch

Elephant Born In Camp Goes Into Forest For First Time ...

Saved baby elephant finally gets to be a little boy with new family. Aroon is a rescued baby elephant who's owner reached out to BLES ...

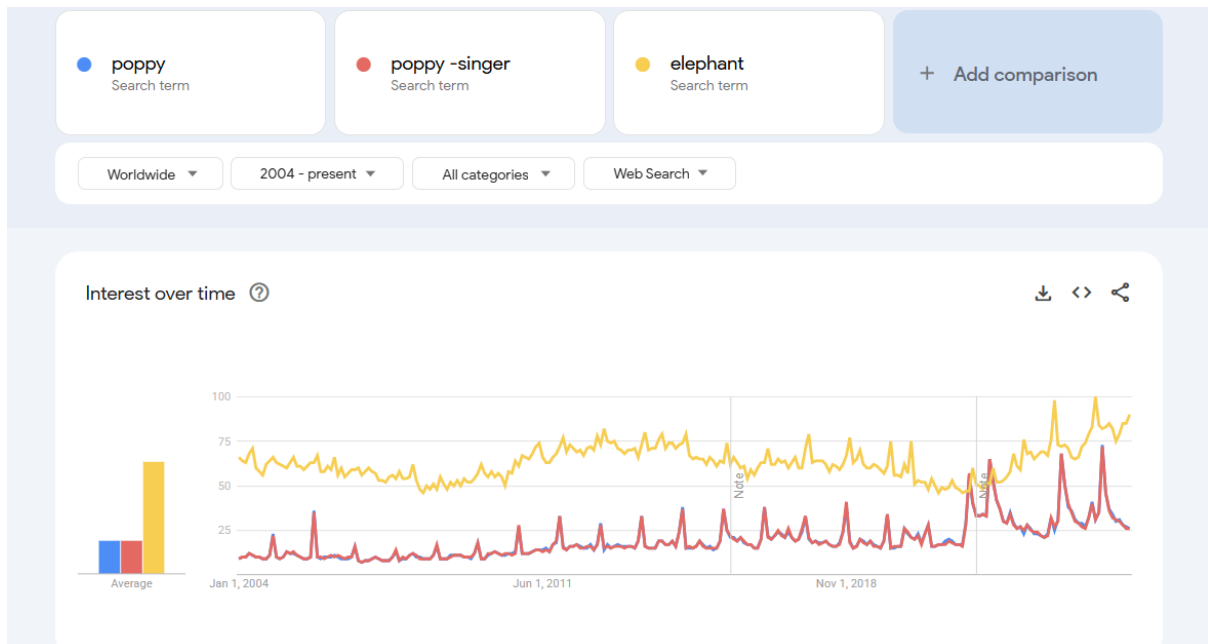
YouTube · Cuddle Buddies · 1 month ago

www.youtube.com › watch

...

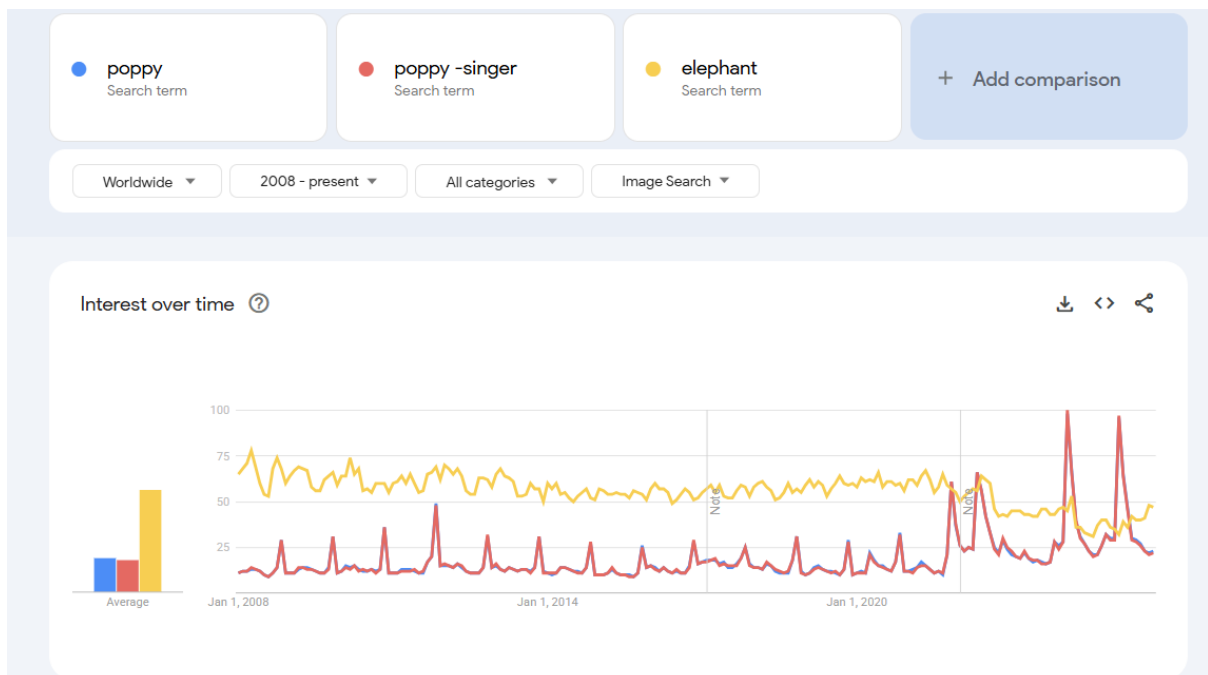


Google Trends: Web Search (compared to elephant)



(The lines that represent “poppy” and “poppy -singer” are identical)

Google Trends: Image Search (compared to elephant)

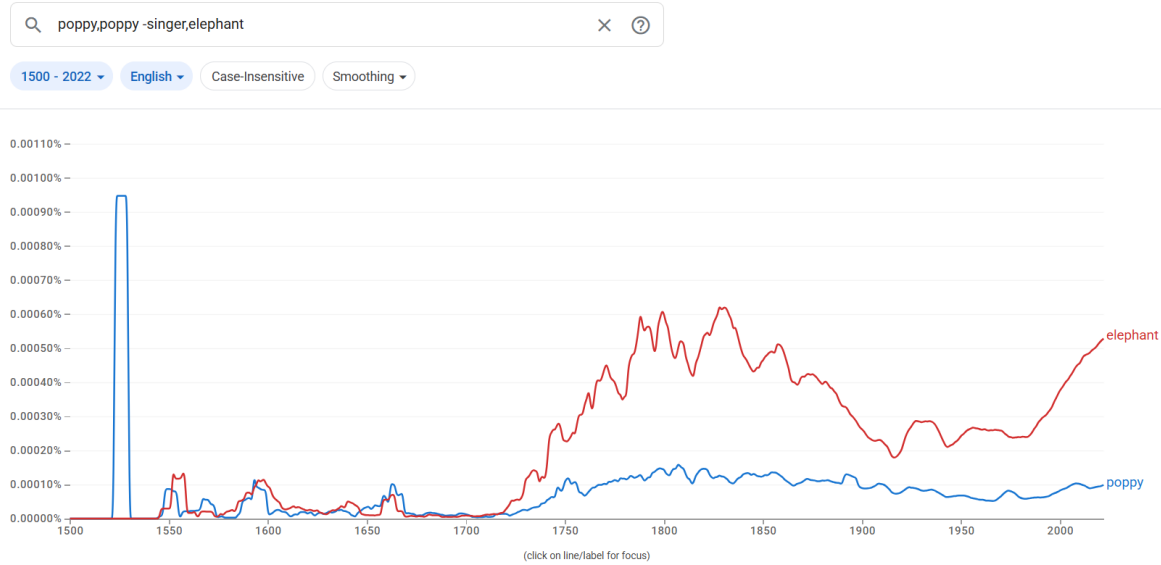


(The lines that represent “poppy” and “poppy -singer” are identical)



Google Ngram Viewer (compared to elephant)

Google Books Ngram Viewer



(The term “poppy -singer” yielded no results)

Google Books

Google poppy

All Images Videos News **Books** Finance

Tools ▾

- Any view ▸
- Any document ▸
- Any time ▸
- Advanced Search

About 1,000,000 results (1.12s)

books.google.com.cy › books

Poppy's Progress - Page 91

Pat Rosier · 2003

FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 91

Google elephant

All Images Videos News **Books** Finance

Tools ▾

- Any view ▸
- Any document ▸
- Any time ▸
- Advanced Search

About 1,000,000 results (1.15s)

books.google.com.cy › books

The Elephant's Foot: Prevention and Care of Foot Conditions ...

Blair Csuti, Eva L. Sargent, Ursula S. Bechert · 2008

FOUND INSIDE – PAGE 25



F. Completes an uncompleted category

I would argue that the remembrance poppy completes an otherwise incomplete category of festive flowers — joining the rose for [Valentine's Day](#), the cherry blossom (sakura) for [Hanami](#), and the hyacinth for the Persian New Year ([Nowruz](#)).

While all of these flowers mark a specific time of year and evoke a similar emotional response (love, happiness, celebration etc.), the poppy stands apart in its tone and context, and fills the space for remembrance and mourning, rounding out the symbolic spectrum of floral festivities.

G. Is needed for compatibility with popular existing systems



The poppy emoji as it appeared on Twitter. ([source](#))

On November 1, 2019, Twitter (now known as X) introduced a poppy emoji to promote awareness of Remembrance Day and encourage support for the Royal British Legion's poppy campaign. The poppy emoji automatically appeared on tweets containing any of the following approved hashtags — #RemembranceDay, #ArmisticeDay, #LestWeForget, #WeWillRememberThem, #SaluteOurForces, #BehindThemAlways, #RemembranceSunday, #GetYourPoppy, #PortezUnCoquelicot, #TwoMinuteSilence, #ThankYouForYourService, or #TYFYS — throughout the campaign period. The campaign ended on November 15, 2019.^{13 14}

The campaign was a success, with accounts like The Royal Canadian Legion¹⁵ and UK In India¹⁶ using the hashtag #RemembranceDay during those 15 days.

¹³ <https://legionmagazine.com/twitter-creates-poppy-emoji/>

¹⁴ <https://www.cobseo.org.uk/poppy-emoji-launches-on-twitter/>

¹⁵ <https://x.com/RoyalCdnLegion/status/1194355676698546177>

¹⁶ <https://x.com/UKinIndia/status/1194618595860336640>



4. Selections factors - Exclusion

A. Already Represented

Not applicable. The poppy is a distinctive flower with no current Emoji substitute.

According to [Emojipedia](https://emojipedia.org/hibiscus), the hibiscus (🌺) is used to represent the poppy emoji.¹⁷ However, the hibiscus depiction in most Emoji artwork across the major vendors is pink with a prominent yellow stamen while the proposed poppy is red with a black stamen, and thus does not represent it.



The hibiscus emoji across all major emoji vendors
(Source: [Emojipedia Hibiscus Emoji](https://emojipedia.org/hibiscus))

Apart from their visual difference, the hibiscus is more closely associated with the Hawaiian and Polynesian flora and mainly used for concepts such as love and beauty rather than for memorial purposes, due to its tropical nature.¹⁸

B. Overly Specific

The poppy emoji is no more specific than it needs to be in order to represent the intended range of expression and given the range of specific flowers already represented in the Emoji set, it's difficult to argue against its addition.

¹⁷ <https://emojipedia.org/veterans-day>

¹⁸ <https://emojipedia.org/hibiscus>



C. Open-Ended

The poppy flower is the largest single symbol of remembrance in the US, UK and other Commonwealth countries and an inseparable part of Remembrance Day.

D. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Not applicable.

NOTE: The stylized two-petal poppy design used for remembrance purposes is a trademark of the Royal British Legion and forms part of their official logo.^{19 20}

This specific design is legally protected and featured on merchandise sold through their dedicated platform, the Poppy Shop.²¹

The same is true for the Royal Canadian Legion for a four petal remembrance poppy design.^{22 23}

This proposal, however, centers on the natural red common field poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) as the inspiration for the emoji. Unlike the trademarked artificial version, the *Papaver rhoeas* is a wildflower not subject to trademark restrictions. It carries strong associations with remembrance in many cultures and, in the right context, can serve a similar symbolic purpose. Its use avoids any legal concerns while remaining respectful and meaningful.²⁴

E. Transient

Not applicable. The poppy stands the “test of time” (see [Ngram Viewer](#)). It has been relevant since the Neolithic Period and continues to be, through art, music, literature, architecture and even video games. (see [Introduction](#))

F. Justified by an existing emoji/Faulty Comparison

Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons. The poppy emoji stands on its own merits.

G. Exact Image

An exact image is not required.

¹⁹ <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are>

²⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-15654558>

²¹ <https://www.poppyshop.org.uk/>

²² <https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy/the-poppy-trademark>

²³

<https://portal.legion.ca/docs/default-source/branch-and-command-resources/poppy-and-remembrance/poppy-trademark.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.rcl82.ca/the-poppy-trademark#:~:text=The%20trademark%20does,the%20Poppy%20image>