

Disclaimer

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This resource is designed to support teaching on or around the Second World War. Please be aware that it may not be appropriate for the children in your class to freely research further into this topic due to the harrowing information and images freely available on the Internet.

Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your students due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

VE Day

How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

VE Day is an important celebration. It is a day to remember all of the people who gave their lives or were badly injured during the war. It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year war.

All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, where it is recognised with church services.

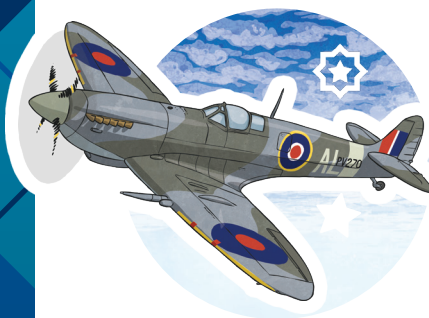


VE Day is the day that marks the end of the Second World War. 'VE' is short for 'Victory in Europe Day'. The very first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945. This was the day after Germany surrendered, which meant they agreed to stop fighting.

What Happened on the First VE Day?

The prime minister of Britain was Winston Churchill and he announced the end of the war over the radio. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations. People danced in the streets around Britain and shared food.

Others went to Buckingham Palace to see King George VI. Lots of people were dressed in red, white and blue. King George VI and his daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, came out on the balcony to greet the crowds. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II and she was known to have said that VE Day 1945 was one day she remembered very well.



What Can You Do this VE Day?

There are lots of things that you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family. You could decorate your home with British-themed bunting and flags.

Don't forget to use red, white and blue! You could try to plan a VE Day party with your family using the foods that people would have had after the war. It might be harder than you think!

Questions

1. Which war does VE Day mark the end of? Tick one.

- ☐ the First World War
- ☐ the Second World War
- ☐ the Cold War
- ☐ the Gulf War

2. Who was the king of England in 1945? Tick one.

- ☐ King Charles II
- ☐ King George VI
- ☐ King Henry VIII
- ☐ King George IV

3. For how many years did the Second World War last? Tick one.

- ☐ four years
- ☐ five years
- ☐ six years
- ☐ seven years

4. Draw four lines and complete the sentences.

The prime minister
of Britain, Winston
Churchill,...

It is a day to remember...

There are lots of things that
you can do to celebrate...

People danced in the
streets...

who gave their lives or were
badly injured during the
war.

around Britain and
shared food.

announced the end of the
war over the radio.

while at home with
your family.

5. Fill in the missing words.

You could decorate your home with British-themed _____ and _____ . Don't forget to use red, white and blue!

6. Name two of the people who came out on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to greet the crowds.

7. Summarise what happened on the first VE Day.

Answers

1. Which war does VE Day mark the end of? Tick one.

- ☐ the First World War
- ☒ **the Second World War**
- ☐ the Cold War
- ☐ the Gulf War

2. Who was the king of England in 1945? Tick one.

- ☐ King Charles II
- ☒ **King George VI**
- ☐ King Henry VIII
- ☐ King George IV

3. For how many years did the Second World War last? Tick one.

- ☐ four years
- ☐ five years
- ☒ **six years**
- ☐ seven years

4. Draw four lines and complete the sentences.

The prime minister of Britain, Winston Churchill,...	who gave their lives or were badly injured during the war.
It is a day to remember...	around Britain and shared food.
There are lots of things that you can do to celebrate...	announced the end of the war over the radio.
People danced in the streets...	while at home with your family.

5. Fill in the missing words.

You could decorate your home with British-themed **bunting** and **flags**. Don't forget to use red, white and blue!

6. Name two of the people who came out on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to greet the crowds.

Accept any two of the following answers: King George VI; Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth II); Princess Margaret.

7. Summarise what happened on the first VE Day.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The end of the Second World War was announced on the first VE Day. People celebrated with street parties and dancing in the street. Lots of people went to Buckingham Palace to see King George VI.

VE Day is a historic day that marks the end of the Second World War. Short for 'Victory in Europe Day', the first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945. This was the day after Germany surrendered, which meant they agreed to stop fighting. The Allies were made up of many countries, including America, Britain and France.

What Happened on the First VE Day?

The prime minister of Britain was Winston Churchill and he announced the end of the war. He announced it at 3 p.m. over the wireless, which is an old-fashioned type of radio. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations. People held street parties across Britain where they shared food and danced in the streets. Large crowds gathered at Buckingham Palace with many people wearing red, white and blue.

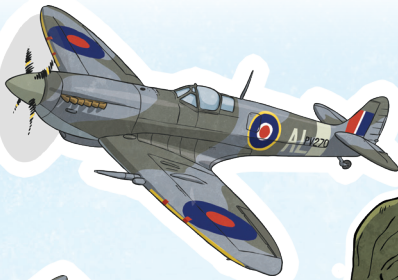
A circular illustration showing a group of British soldiers in olive green uniforms and hats marching in a parade. They are carrying rifles and walking under a string of Union Jack flags. The background is a stylized landscape with green hills and a blue sky with white stars.

VE Day

How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

VE Day is an important celebration. On this day, we take the opportunity to remember the people that sacrificed their lives or were badly injured during the war. It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year conflict.

All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, where it is recognised with church services.



King George VI and his daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, came out on the balcony to greet the crowds. It is believed that Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were allowed to secretly leave the palace and celebrate with the people outside. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II and was known to have said that VE Day 1945 was one of the most memorable days of her life.

Did VE Day Mean the End of the War?

Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war. Fighting still continued in Japan until August, when Japan surrendered. This day is marked by VJ Day on 15th August in the UK.

What Can You Do This VE Day?

There are lots of things that you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family. You could decorate your house with British-themed bunting and flags – don't forget to use red, white and blue! Or, try to plan a VE Day party using the foods that people would have had after the war. It might be harder than you think!



Questions

1. Which year did the Second World War end? Tick one.
 - ☐ 1960
 - ☐ 1990
 - ☐ 1945
 - ☐ 1940

2. Who was the prime minister on the first VE Day? Tick one.
 - ☐ Winston Churchill
 - ☐ Boris Johnson
 - ☐ Margaret Thatcher
 - ☐ Tony Blair

3. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and _____.
Tick one to complete the sentence.
 - ☐ Germany
 - ☐ France
 - ☐ America
 - ☐ England

4. Number the events below from 1-5 to show the order they appear in the text.
The first one has been done for you.
 - ☐ Victory in Japan is marked by VJ day on 15th August in the UK.
 - ☐ All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting.
 - ☒ 1 The first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945.
 - ☐ Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war.
 - ☐ You could decorate your house with British-themed bunting and flags.

5. Look at the section titled What Happened on the First VE Day?
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'unforgettable'.

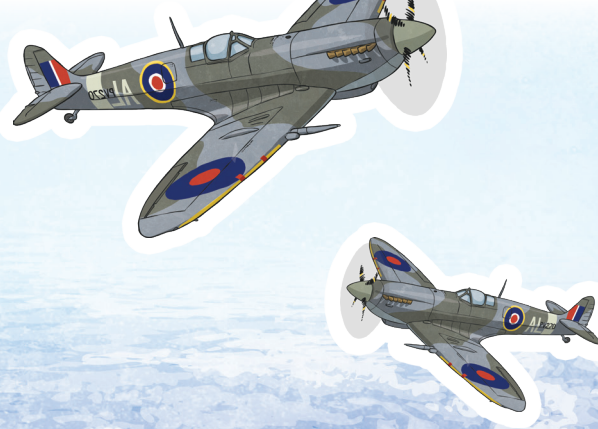
6. Why were many people dressed in red, white and blue during the celebrations?

7. Explain why VE Day is an important celebration.

8. How could you celebrate VE Day at home this year? Give an idea not mentioned in the text.

Answers

1. Which year did the Second World War end? Tick one.
 - ☐ 1960
 - ☐ 1990
 - ☒ **1945**
 - ☐ 1940
2. Who was the prime minister on the first VE Day? Tick one.
 - ☒ **Winston Churchill**
 - ☐ Boris Johnson
 - ☐ Margaret Thatcher
 - ☐ Tony Blair
3. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and _____.
Tick one to complete the sentence.
 - ☐ Germany
 - ☒ **France**
 - ☐ America
 - ☐ England
4. Number the events below from 1-5 to show the order they appear in the text.
The first one has been done for you.
 - 3** Victory in Japan is marked by VJ day on 15th August in the UK.
 - 4** All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting.
 - 1** The first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945.
 - 2** Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war.
 - 5** You could decorate your house with British-themed bunting and flags.
5. Look at the section titled What Happened on the First VE Day?
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'unforgettable'.
memorable
6. Why were many people dressed in red, white and blue during the celebrations?
Many people were dressed in red, white and blue because those are the colours of the British flag.
7. Explain why VE Day is an important celebration.
Pupils' own responses, such as: VE Day is an important day because it is a chance for us to celebrate peace in Europe.
8. How could you celebrate VE Day at home this year? Give an idea not mentioned in the text.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I could celebrate VE Day at home this year by singing "We'll Meet Again".



On Monday 7th May 1945 at 2:41 a.m., German General Jodl signed the unconditional surrender document that ended the Second World War in Europe.

What Can You Do This VE Day?

There are lots of things that you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family.

You could decorate your house with British-themed bunting and flags – don't forget to use red, white and blue! Or, you could try to plan a VE Day party using the foods that people would have had available after the war. It might be harder than you think!



VE Day is the historic day that marks this important event. Short for 'Victory in Europe Day', the first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945. This was the day after Germany surrendered to Allied forces. Winston Churchill was the prime minister for Britain and he declared the day a national holiday.



What Happened on the First VE Day?

Winston Churchill officially announced the end of the war at 3 p.m. over the wireless, which is an old-fashioned type of radio. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations.

People held street parties across Britain where they shared food and danced in the streets. Bells rang out from churches across the country and around 20,000 people gathered at Buckingham Palace, waiting to catch a glimpse of King George VI.

Lots of people were dressed in red, white and blue. King George VI came out on the balcony to greet the crowds with his daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. It is believed that Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were allowed to secretly leave the palace and celebrate with the people outside. Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II and was known to have said that VE Day 1945 was one of the most memorable days of her life.

How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

VE Day is an important celebration. On this day, we take the opportunity to remember the people that sacrificed their lives or were badly injured during the war.

It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year conflict. All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event.

VE Day is recognised and celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, with church services, processions and parties.

What Happened After VE Day?

Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war around the world. Many people were still sent to fight in Japan, where the conflict continued until August.

The day that Japan surrendered is marked by VJ Day, short for 'Victory in Japan'. It is celebrated on 15th August in the UK. Even after the war, life continued to be a struggle in Britain. Many people were deeply affected by the terrible loss of life. The war was also very expensive so the country had to rebuild and recover slowly.



Questions

1. Who signed the document for unconditional surrender? Tick one.

- ☐ Winston Churchill
- ☐ King George VI
- ☐ General Jodl
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth II

2. Where did approximately 20,000 people gather on the first VE Day? Tick one.

- ☐ Elizabeth Tower
- ☐ Buckingham Palace
- ☐ Kensington Palace
- ☐ Houses of Parliament

3. Look at the first section of the text. Find and copy a word which means 'gave up'.

4. Why do you think VE Day 1945 was one of the most memorable days of Queen Elizabeth II's life?

5. Give the name of another country mentioned in the text where VE Day is celebrated.

6. It might be harder than you think!

Why might it be difficult to plan a party using only the foods available after the war?

7. Do you think you would have liked to take part in the VE Day celebrations after the Second World War? Explain why.

8. Summarise what life was like right after the first VE Day.

Answers

1. Who signed the document for unconditional surrender? Tick one.

- ☐ Winston Churchill
- ☐ King George VI
- ☒ **General Jodl**
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth II

2. Where did approximately 20,000 people gather on the first VE Day? Tick one.

- ☐ Elizabeth Tower
- ☒ **Buckingham Palace**
- ☐ Kensington Palace
- ☐ Houses of Parliament

3. Look at the first section of the text. Find and copy a word which means 'gave up'.

surrendered

4. Why do you think VE Day 1945 was one of the most memorable days of Queen Elizabeth II's life?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that VE Day in 1945 was one of the most memorable days of Queen Elizabeth II's life because she greeted the crowds on the balcony and might have secretly joined the people outside.

5. Give the name of another country mentioned in the text where VE Day is celebrated.

Accept: Belgium; France

6. It might be harder than you think!

Why might it be difficult to plan a party using only the foods available after the war?

Pupils' own responses, such as: It might be harder than you think because those foods might not exist anymore. There were shortages after the war and food would have been different over 75 years ago.

7. Do you think you would have liked to take part in the VE Day celebrations after the Second World War? Explain why.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think I would have liked to take part in the VE Day celebrations because there would have been a special atmosphere as people celebrated the end of the war in Europe.

8. Summarise what life was like right after the first VE Day.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Life was hard right after the first VE Day because a lot of money had been spent during the Second World War and people were upset that so many people had died. Some soldiers were still fighting in Japan until a few months later.