

## VE Day

The project this week aims to provide opportunities for your child to learn more about VE Day.

Learning may focus on celebrations VE day and other WW2 themed activities.

### **VE ('Victory in Europe') Day:**

What happened on VE day?

What date was VE day?

How do you think people felt on this special day?

What did people do to celebrate?

Use the links below and maybe some of your own research to answer the questions.

[Newsround](#)

[Victory Song](#)

[VE day facts](#)

[VE day facts 2](#)

[VE day video](#)



### **Science- Blackout**

During the war, it was extremely important that windows were covered completely at night so that no light could be seen outside.

**What material would be best to use to cover your windows during a blackout?**

Using a torch, investigate shining light through different materials you can find at home. Which one would be best to use to cover your windows? Try and record your results in a way of your choice!



### **Celebrations!**

To celebrate the end of WW2, people held large street parties. They decorated the street using bunting and flags. Can you have a go at making your own VE day flags or bunting? You could use it to decorate for your own VE day party at home!



### **Poppy Art**

We use the symbol of the poppy as a way of remembering all of the brave men and women who have served or serve in the armed forces. Why not create a special piece of art work in honour of these amazing people!

### **Wartime Songs**

Listen to and learn some wartime songs...

[Wartime song lyrics](#)

[Run, rabbit, run!](#)

[Long way to Tipperary/ Pack up your troubles](#)

[We'll meet again](#)

Why not record yourself singing one of these songs!

### **Wartime Recipes**

Can you have a go at following one of the wartime recipes below?

[Wartime Carrot Cake](#)

[Scones](#)

[Jam Tarts](#)

[Wartime Loaf](#)

[Other recipes](#)

Take a photo of your delicious creation. Try to write a review of how easy it was to make and how it tasted!



### **History- Winston Churchill**

Who was Winston Churchill?

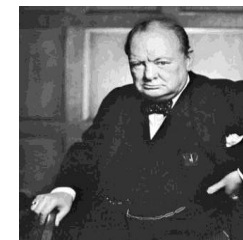
What was his job?

Why was he so important during WW2?

Can you find out some other interesting facts about Winston Churchill?

[BBC Bitesize Winston](#)

[Churchill Facts](#)



## VE DAY



### 'Stay At Home' Street Party

Read this article on [Newsround](#) and look closely at the photographs. **How did people celebrate in 1945? Plan your own 'stay at home' street party.** What games could be played? What decorations would be put up? What food would be eaten? Who would be there? Is there anyone in your family who went to a VE Day party you could speak to?

For something more simple, you could design your own **VE Day party invitation** or create your own **Union Jack flag bunting** or make a Union Jack flag out of Lego!

### Understanding World War Two/VE Day

On 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, Britain celebrated the end of World War Two. To understand why VE Day was so important, you need to understand WW2. Visit these sites to help in your research:

[Primary Homework Help - WW2](#)  
[A Brief Overview of World War II](#) – Video  
[BBC Teach - VE Day](#)  
[What Is VE Day?](#)

**Can you create a timeline of important events leading up to VE Day?**

### Wartime Recipes

With one rationed egg and a packet of powdered milk in the larder, World War II's home cooks had to be creative. Find out what families were eating over 75 years ago.

**Create some delicious meals using the recipe booklets below. You could serve them at your 'Stay at Home Street Party!'**

[Wartime Recipe Booklet](#)  
[Wartime Ration Recipes](#)  
[WW2 Cake](#)  
[Wartime Scones](#)  
[Jam Tarts](#)



### Crack The Codes

<b>A</b>	Alfa	<b>N</b>	November
<b>B</b>	Bravo	<b>O</b>	Oscar
<b>C</b>	Charlie	<b>P</b>	Papa
<b>D</b>	Delta	<b>Q</b>	Quebec
<b>E</b>	Echo	<b>R</b>	Romeo
<b>F</b>	Foxtrot	<b>S</b>	Sierra
<b>G</b>	Golf	<b>T</b>	Tango
<b>H</b>	Hotel	<b>U</b>	Uniform
<b>I</b>	India	<b>V</b>	Victor
<b>J</b>	Juliett	<b>W</b>	Whisky
<b>K</b>	Kilo	<b>X</b>	X-ray
<b>L</b>	Lima	<b>Y</b>	Yankee
<b>M</b>	Mike	<b>Z</b>	Zulu

#### **Phonetic Alphabet**

The phonetic alphabet was used in RAF transmissions during the war. Learn to spell your name using the phonetic alphabet e.g.

**Ted = Tango Echo Delta**

#### **Morse Code**

Morse code is a communication system that represents the

alphabet and numbers with a series of dots, dashes or a combination of both as shown [here](#). Watch this video to find out more about [Morse Code](#).

**Can you write a secret coded message for your family to crack?**

### Make, Do and Mend

During WW2, there was a shortage of materials to make clothes. People were urged to "Make, do and mend".

**Do you have any clothes or accessories that you could 'upcycle' into new clothing or something completely different to give it another purpose and a new lease of life?**



### VE Day Songs



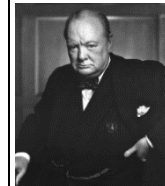
Try and learn the Horrible Histories [VE Day song](#) and perform it to your family.

Create your own motivational song. Listen to some of the following clips for inspiration. Click [here](#) to listen to some more traditional war time songs as well as the links below.

[Wartime song lyrics](#)  
[Run, rabbit, run!](#)  
[Long way to Tipperary/ Pack up your troubles](#)  
[We'll meet again](#)  
[The White Cliffs of Dover](#)

Learn [step-by-step](#) how to Swing dance (The Lindy Hop) which originated in the late 1920s and early 1930s in Harlem, New York City.

### Winston Churchill



Who was Winston Churchill? Why do we remember him today? Produce a fact file/ poster displaying your information.

Create a mind map or list of facts about Winston Churchill.

What was his job?

Why was he so important during WW2?

What was one of his famous phrases?

Can you describe his characteristics?

Why he was important?

You can read more about Churchill using these links from [Twinkl](#) and [Ducksters](#). You may present this information in any way you choose or use this [template](#).

**CHALLENGE: Can you learn Winston Churchill's [Victory speech](#) and record yourself presenting it?**

### Europe during the Second World War

Colour in the countries on the map ([here](#)) according to whether they were Allies, Axis, Axis controlled or Neutral.

You could print the map from Twinkl (code **UKTWINKLHELPS**) or create a list.

[NatGeo Kids - WW2 History](#)



### Spitfire Science

Design and make your own Spitfire. You could make it out of paper, wood, recycled materials, etc. Test out your design. How far does it glide?

**Does the material used for a paper plane affect the distance it travels?** Try using newspaper, card, tinfoil, etc and carry out a test. Remember, only change ONE thing to make it a fair test.

## VE Day

### Understanding World War Two

On 8 May 1945 Britain celebrated the end of World War Two. To understand why VE Day was so important, you need to understand WW2. Research what happened during WW2. When did it start? Why did it start? Who fought? Where did fighting take place? What happened during the Battle of Britain? What happened on D-Day? What was rationing? What was evacuation? What happened during the Blitz? You may present this information in any way you choose.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9s9q6f/revision/1>

### Plan your own street party

On 8 May 1945, Britain began to rejoice. People ran out onto the streets, church bells rang, bunting and banners were hung up and people brought food to eat at street parties.

Plan your own street party. Where would it be? What games would be played? What decorations would be put up? What food would be eaten?



### Research Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister in 1945. Research and make a fact file about who Churchill was. Consider why he was important, his personality, his family, his hobbies and his jobs.



### Postcard task

Write a 'Postcard from the Past'. Imagine you were at the first VE day and heard the news that the war had ended.

What might you tell your family about what you heard? What did you do? What did you eat? Who else was there? What games did you play? What decorations were made and hung up? Use the link below find out more about VE Day

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ve-day-How-did-the-british-plan-to-celebrate/zndn7nb>

### Flag task

During World War Two, countries that were part of the British Empire fought alongside the British. Some of these countries were: Canada, USA, Bermuda, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, India and Cyprus. Find and draw the flags for these countries. Can you find other countries that fought alongside the British in WW2 and find and their flags too?



### Design your own VE coin or medal

8 May 1945, now known as VE Day, saw the beginning of the end of the Second World War – the conflict that claimed the lives of millions and reshaped the future of countries and continents. The Royal Mint have designed a commemorative coin to remember VE Day. Your task is to design your own commemorative coin or a VE Day medal. You could think about the following ideas when designing yours: the years of the war; the colours of the ally flags or a reference to how the war was fought (land, air and sea).



### Remembering VE Day

Around the country can be found memorial plaques for VE day such as this one in Tilgate Park in Crawley. It says "VE Day 8 May 1945 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To give thanks for the spirit of peace and reconciliation prevailing between the nation states of Europe and to commemorate the heroism and sacrifices of all those who contributed to the peace we now all enjoy. Let us remember and reflect". Now we are celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, design your own memorial plaque and write your own message on your plaque.



### Music

To link with VE day we are going to discover some music from the 1930s and 40s. Listen to the song '[In the Mood](#)' and make a list of the instruments that are playing in the Big Band.



- Can you name the most famous Big Band of that time?
- What do you notice they do when it is their turn to play the solo section?
- Research some other songs from this era and make a list.

### VE reflections

Now you know more about VE Day, answer these questions to sum up your learning on VE Day.

1. Why do you think it is important to celebrate and recognise VE Day?
2. How do you think VE Day should be celebrated in the future?



### What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day, and is celebrated on 8th May. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of the fighting in Europe.

### How did it happen?

In April 1945, Hitler died. This meant that the Germans had to surrender their part in the Second World War to the Western armies. The German President of the Third Reich (the German army), gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American army Head Quarters in France. Here, Jodl surrendered to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

### The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news! Bell ringers in churches around the country, were ready to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.

The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, made the following announcement at 19.40, 7th May.

**"In accordance with arrangements between three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday."**

### The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



The three great powers were:

- Great Britain
- Soviet Union (Russia)
- France

### Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They had street parties, neighbours shared food, and listened to the radio news programmes.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked in the huge crowds in London!

Churchill told the crowds, "This is your victory!"

### The End of the VE Day

Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time in six years since the war began, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of peace, above St Paul's Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.



Although everyone was pleased the war in Europe had come to an end, many people would have also felt sad, for the family and friends who had been killed.



1. What did VE Day mean?

2. What had happened, for VE day to be announced?

3. How would people know that there was good news?

4. Name two effects that war in Europe had had on the British people

5. Who was Winston Churchill?

6. Why did he announce that the next day, Tuesday would be a holiday?

7. Name one of the great powers.

8. Why would some people have felt sad on VE Day?

9. What unusual thing did the princesses do on that day?

10. How was it shown in London that people were happy?