

VE DAY

8th May 1945



Created by the KS2 team, including resources created by the Royal British Legion and National Literacy Trust.

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What is VE Day?

**Why is it a significant
day for us to
remember?**



A National Holiday

“Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight tonight, but in the interests of saving lives the “Cease fire” began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today.”

Winston Churchill

How do you think people felt hearing those words?



8th May 2020
75th Anniversary of
Victory in Europe



Why do you
think it is
important that
together we
remember VE
Day?





←
Crowds gathered
to celebrate

A veteran's experience of VE Day



Veteran: a person who served in the Armed Forces

Triumph and Sorrow on VE Day

“ Let us turn our thoughts to this day of ... triumph and ... sorrow.”

Winston Churchill



Triumph: a great victory or achievement



Sorrow: a feeling of great sadness



Triumph and Sorrow on VE Day

Despite celebrations and relief the war was over, for many, it was still a sad time.

- There was a lot of damage after the war
- Millions had lost their lives or loved ones
- Soldiers returned with memories of war and conflict
- Many people still weren't home yet





“

Let us remember those who will not come back...let us remember the men in all the services, and the women in all the services, who have laid down their lives. We have come to end of our tribulation and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing.”

King George VI

There was a lot of work still to do

What might they
be thinking or
feeling?



What do you
notice in the
background of
this picture?



Millions of people lost their lives

18,000,000

18 million service personnel killed

45,000,000

45 million civilians killed

67,000

67 thousand killed in air raids in the UK



Civilian: a person who served on the Home Front



Service personnel: people serving in the armed forces

Soldiers returned home with memories of war and conflict

*How do you
think
returning
soldiers felt
about coming
home?*

?



Geoffrey Hather's Story: A Prisoner of War

Geoffrey was 16 years old when the war started. In 1941, aged 18, he enlisted in the RAF.

3 years later, when he was flying over Germany, his plane was shot down. He survived but was captured and spent the next year in a Prisoner of War camp.

One morning in 1945, an American Jeep came to the camp and the soldiers were told that they were freed. They were flown back home, and Geoffrey was treated in hospital for many injuries.





Geoffrey felt scared about returning home. He dreaded having to face big celebratory banners and large crowds of people.

He found coming home difficult. So much had changed. His family couldn't understand what he had been through – and he had no idea what they had suffered in the air raids.

“

“I don't think anybody who has been a prisoner of war has ever become normal again... You can't go through an experience like that and be the same again.”

Geoffrey Hather

Many people hadn't returned home yet

There were 40 million refugees scattered across Europe



This picture shows a large group of Polish refugees in Germany, waiting to be returned to Poland



Refugees: people who have been forced to leave their country due to war, violence, conflict or persecution.

Michael Wetton's Story: A Child Evacuee



In 1939, Michael, aged 6, and his two older siblings were evacuated from London to the Essex coast.

For the first 2 years, he was moved from home to home and he found it very hard being away from his family and home in London.

To begin with, Michael was kept together with one of his brothers. But after a while they were separated and were sent to live with different families.

In 1941, he finally found a family to live with, where he felt happy. Aunty Rhoda and Uncle Tom looked after him well for the next four years.

Sadly, during the air raids, Michael's home in London was bombed. His mum survived, but they lost all of their possessions and no longer had a house to live in.

On VE Day, when others were celebrating the end of the war, Michael was still an evacuee, unable to return home to be with his family.



Evacuees were sent to live with other families in safe areas of the country whilst London was being bombed.

VE Day Reflection

On the 75th anniversary of VE day, let us:

- Give thanks to the Second World War generation for protecting the freedoms, democracy and ways of life we enjoy today
- Remember the bravery, service and sacrifice of the British and Commonwealth Armed forces who fought in the war; those who lost their lives, those who were still trying get home, and those who didn't have a home to return to
- Remember those who contributed to the war effort, including emergency services, families and civilians

Thought of the day

Do we know anybody in our communities or families who remembers WW2 and could share their stories with us?

Find a creative way to share their story with us.

www.rbl.org.uk/remembrance

A taste of war time?



Click the link below to download
template

Plan a VE day party menu! What special party dishes might people have made to share with their friends and family on VE Day?

TOP TIP

Food was rationed during wartime so you will need to find out what food was available before you design your meal!

TAKE IT FURTHER

You could try making a war time recipe from your party menu such as a cake or some lemonade, to share with your family on VE day.

<https://storage.rblcdn.co.uk/sitefinity/docs/default-source/remembrancedocs/ve-day-menu.pdf>

Create a peace display

Design a poster to remind everyone to be kind to each other.

TOP TIP

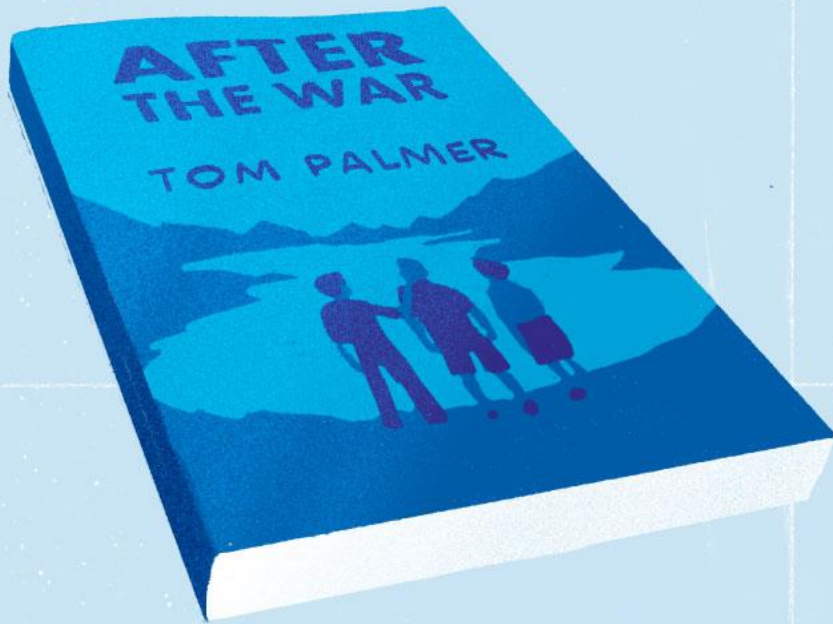
Find somewhere to display the poster so as many can see it as possible.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Learn the word for “peace” in as many different languages as you can.



Share stories of VE Day



Click the link to download
template

<https://storage.rblcdn.co.uk/sitefinity/docs/default-source/remembrancedocs/ve-day-diary-entry.pdf>

Transport yourself back in time and write a VE Day diary entry. Imagine what it would have been like to take part in a VE day street parade or party. Think about:

- What did you do to celebrate?
- How did it feel knowing that the war in Europe was over?
- Who joined in the celebrations with you? Was anyone missing and why?
- Why might there have been a feeling of sadness too?

TOP TIP

Use the information you have learnt in this presentation to help you describe what happened on VE Day and how it felt. You might like to write from the perspective of a child evacuee, using Michael Wetton's story to help you.

TAKE IT FURTHER

You might like to read a story about VE Day or WW2 to learn more about what it was like.

Step back in time

Learn some 1940s dance moves to celebrate VE Day. You might like to find out about the popular 1940s dance: The Lindy Hop!

TOP TIP

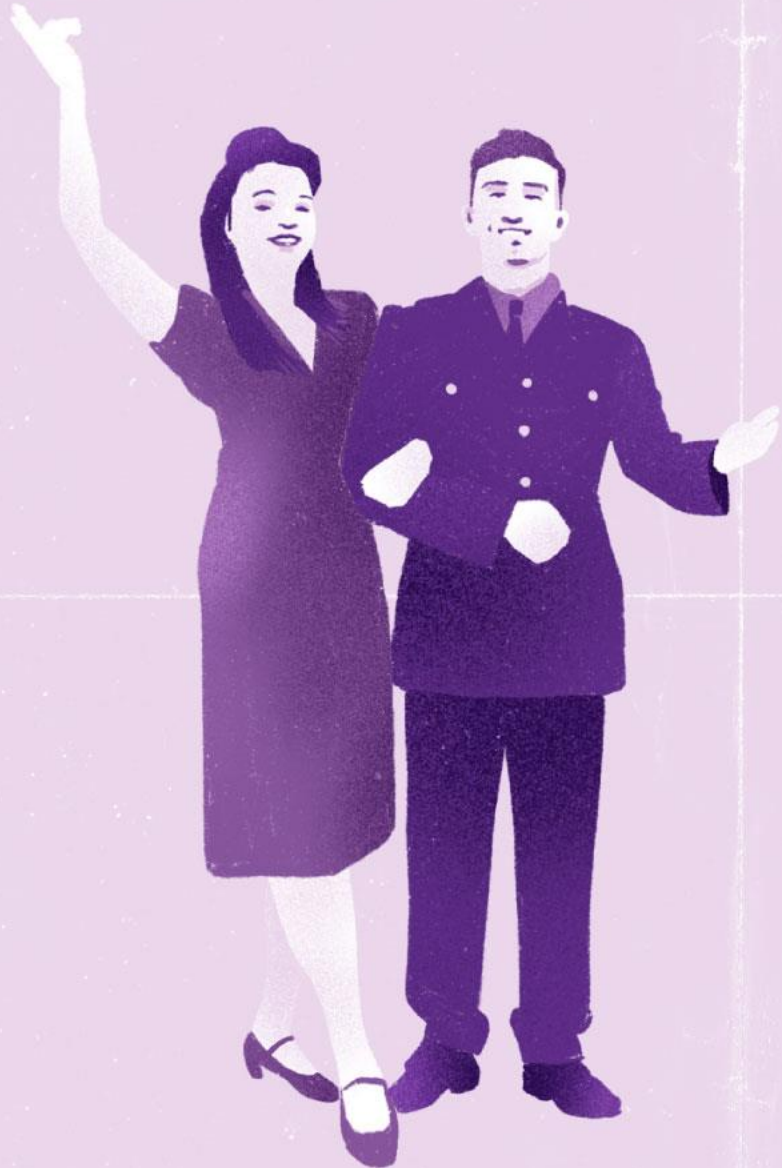
You could film yourself performing some of the dance moves or even create a tutorial for your family so that they can learn too!

TAKE IT FURTHER

You could learn some popular 1940s songs to sing along to and perform on VE Day.

Click the link to watch the Lindy Hop

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/ve-day-pack.pdf>



Taking inspiration from a local

Born in Greater Manchester, LS Lowry created many iconic pieces of artwork.

To celebrate VE Day, he created this painting. Why not have a go at creating your own VE masterpiece in the style of Lowry?





Decorative designs

Make some red, white and blue bunting for your house. There's some templates attached, but you might wish to make your own.



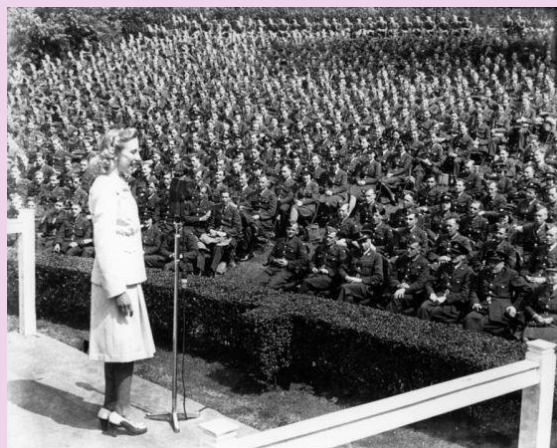
Sing like a legend

Dame Vera Lynn is a British singer whose songs became incredibly popular during WWII.

Learn to sing 'We'll Meet Again' by Vera Lynn.

<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5e8dd316ee884>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJKMji2688M>



Yummy food in my tummy

Make some party food for your own VE Day celebrations.

During WWII, sugar was rationed so people used natural sources of sugar, including carrots. Why not make some wartime carrot cake?

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/crome/recipes/wartime-carrot-cake>

Guess who...?

During the war, a popular past-time in the evenings was to make shadow animals. How many can you make? Can your family guess them all?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8YZ8QKwBzY>

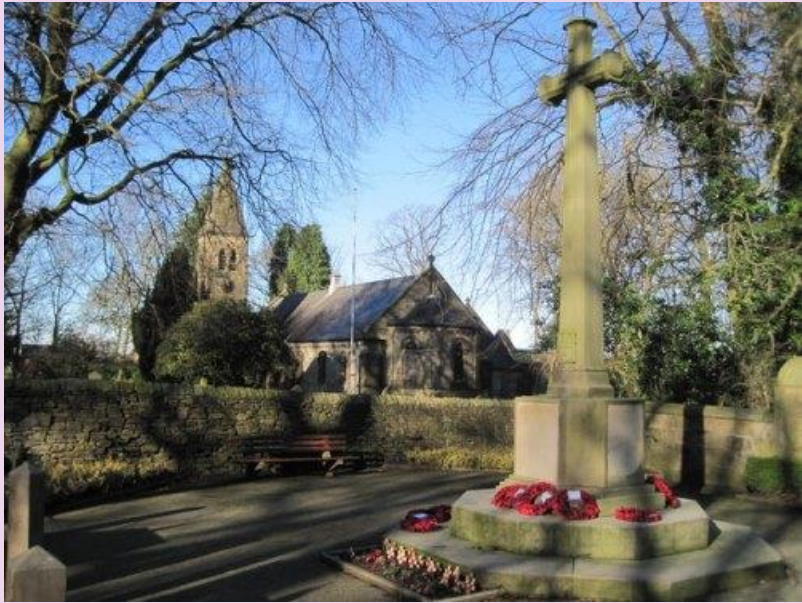


Can you crack the code?

Some of the most famous code breakers in history have been mathematicians who have been able to use quite simple maths to uncover plots, identify traitors and influence battles. One of the most famous codebreakers during WW2 was Alan Turing.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-ii/cracking-codes/>

Create your own enigma machine and write a coded message using the template to help you.



The history of our community

Take a walk to High Lane War Memorial near St. Thomas' Church.

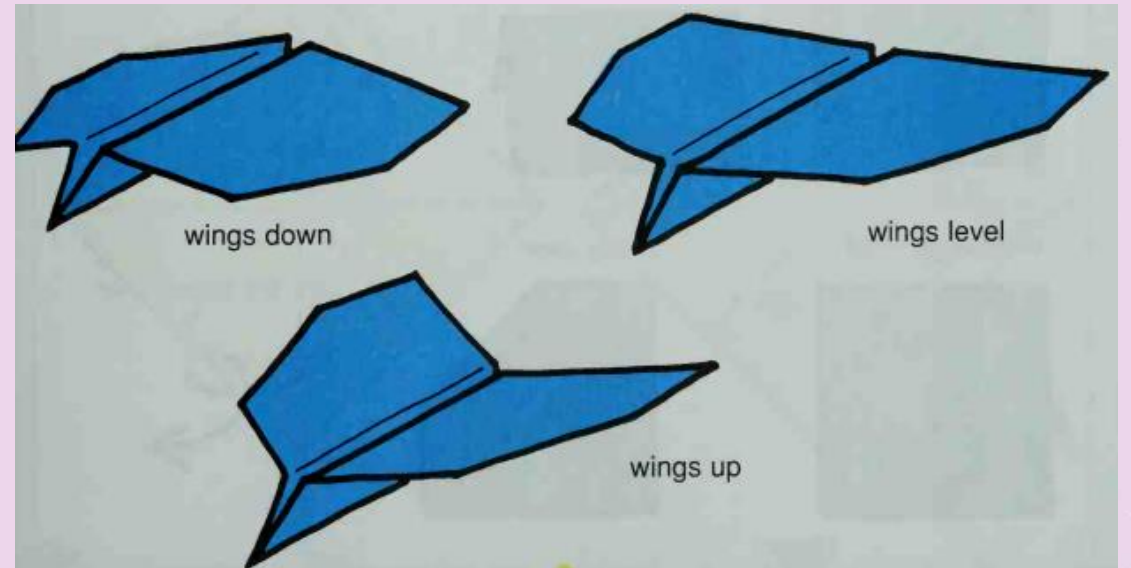
After, have a go at creating a piece of artwork using this photograph. You can use any form of media you like and we'd love to see what you create.

Take a flight

Find out how the shape of a wing can change the direction of a paper plane.

Make different types of paper plane and watch carefully to see the difference in their flight.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54noZe-0B1c>





Earn your stripes

During times of conflict, it is common for soldiers to be awarded medals. Design a special medal that could've been awarded at the end of WWII.



Commemorate the event

Throughout history, significant events have been remembered through the production of specially produced china, like teacups and plates.

Using the template, create your own VE Day teacup.



Celebrate

Have a VE celebration with your family. If the weather is nice, create a wartime picnic to eat in your garden whilst listening to some songs from WWII. You can even use the bunting that you created to decorate your home!



Interesting websites you might want to visit...

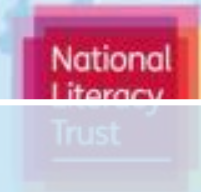
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-ve-day>

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

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/war/dday.html>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-ii/ve-day/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEavcsrMoMw>



Changing life stories

