

# Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May – VE Day

VE Day - or 'Victory in Europe Day' - marks the day towards the end of World War Two (WW2) when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end.

On 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before. This 8<sup>th</sup> May marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since that day.

## How was VE Day celebrated?

By the beginning of 1945, the German army had been weakened and defeat looked likely. Tuesday 8 May, 1945, was an emotional day that millions of people had been waiting for. Many people were extremely happy that the fighting had stopped and there were big celebrations and street parties.



Huge crowds - with lots of people dressed in red, white and blue - gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London. They cheered as King George VI and his family, including Princess Elizabeth (the current queen) and Princess Margaret, came out onto the balcony to greet everybody.

Princess Elizabeth and her sister were allowed to leave the palace and celebrate with crowds outside, although they had to do it secretly.

The future Queen described it as "one of the most memorable nights of my life".

# VE DAY

Choose one or more activities to explore about VE day (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May). Be creative about how you present your work.



## '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

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

### Phonetic Alphabet

The phonetic alphabet that 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?



## 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?

## 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?



## Second World War Memories

Do you have any older relatives/family friends who remember VE Day? Ask them about it (over the phone/zoom if they don't live with you) and what they remember of World War 2. Can you interview them and record their details and memories?



## 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 fa