

Unit 3 Week 6 Other Learning
Friday - Celebrating VE Day! VICTORY IN EUROPE!

75th Anniversary of VE Day – 8th May 2020



Up and down the country, we should all have been enjoying a long bank holiday weekend and celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE Day; however, that is just not possible at the moment. In some ways, lots of what we are doing at the moment - staying home to keep everybody safe - is very relevant to VE Day celebrations and hopefully, in the future, we will all be able to celebrate being together again.

Instead, I've set some tasks for you to find out a bit about what VE Day is and some activities that will help you to have a mini-celebration of your own at home. Wouldn't it be great if you could still feel connected to other people in Dunnington by decorating your house or by celebrating in the same way! Maybe you could also share some pictures of your VE Day work or your celebrations with your family, by emailing them into school info@broadfield.oldham.sch.uk

Before reading any further, have a look at the 2 photos below and pretend to be a History Detective.

What questions might you ask about the photos?

Try to think of between 5 and 10 questions. You could write them down or just tell an adult what questions you have.



The first photo actually shows the Prime Minister Winston Churchill announcing **VE Day - Victory in Europe**. This day marks the end of the Second World War in Europe.

There were no mobile phones or internet in those days. How do you think he would have given this news to everyone?

The second photo shows people celebrating VE Day on May 8th 1945.

To find out more about VE Day, you can read this article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749>

or

KS2 might also want to watch this video explaining VE Day and the commemorations:

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

Or you might want to enjoy this fun VE Day song from Horrible Histories:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/horrible-histories-songs-ve-day-song>

Here is an amazing website about VE Day... Please click on the link and have a read. VE day is a significant day in British AND WORLD History!!

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

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PHOTOGRAPHS

A national holiday was declared in Britain for 8 May 1945. In the morning, Churchill had gained assurances from the Ministry of Food that there were enough beer supplies in the capital and the Board of Trade announced that people could purchase red, white and blue bunting without using ration coupons. There were even commemorative items hastily produced in time for the celebrations, including 'VE Day' mugs. Some restaurants had special 'victory' menus, too.



Various events were organised to mark the occasion, including parades, thanksgiving services and street parties.

Communities came together to share the moment. London's St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people. Due to the time difference, VE Day in New Zealand was officially held on 9 May. The country's leadership wanted to delay the national holiday until peace in Europe had been announced by Winston Churchill. New Zealanders therefore had to go to work on 8 May and wait until the following day to celebrate. In the Soviet Union, too, VE Day was on 9 May due to the different time zones.



Image of a Commemorative Mug made for VE Day. When there is a significant day for Britain eg A royal wedding or the end of a World War, commemorative products are sold as souvenirs of this event. Postage stamps, coins, teacups, teapots are very popular items to make into a commemorative design. There are two activities to choose from. Do one or both of them.

VE Day Teacup Design

Victory in Europe (VE) Day took place on 8th May 1945. It marked the end of the Second World War in Europe.

VE Day was commemorated in many ways, including the production of special cups.

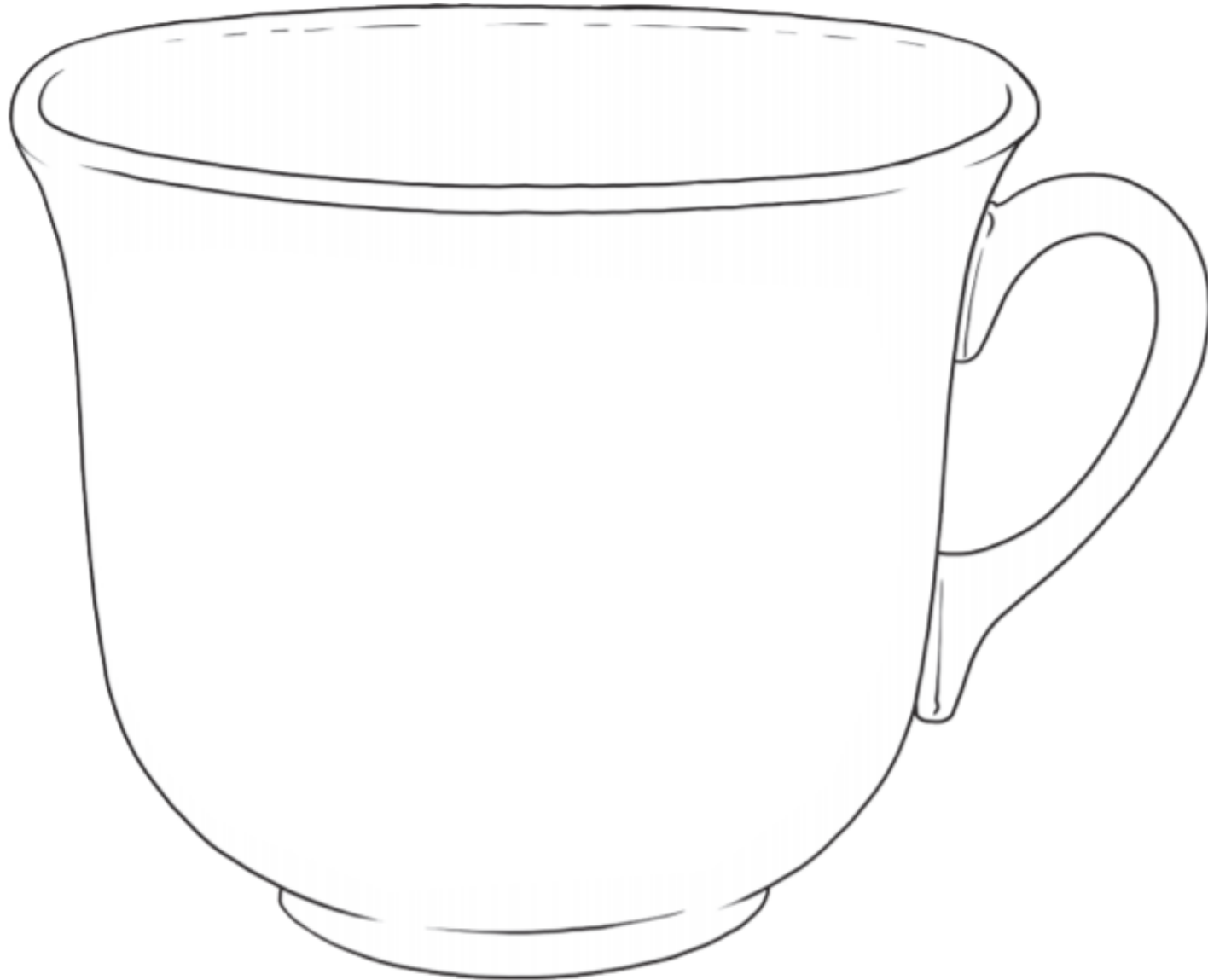


Winston Churchill had lots of photographs taken where he is smoking (a cigar). In those days people did not realise how bad smoking is for people's health.

- Do you recognise the people on the cup? Who are they?
- Why is there a flag on the cup?
- What do you think the slogan on the cup means?
- Why do you think commemorative cups like this were made?

VE Day Teacup Design

Design your own VE Day cup. Think about your design and make sure it is bright and eye-catching. You could include flags, important buildings or people who were involved in the Second World War.



Design a VE Day Medal

This medal celebrated the end of the First World War and was given to soldiers who had fought in active theatres of the war. It was a symbol of **great pride** but its design was also highly **symbolic**.



Bronze medal, not too expensive after the war, but long lasting.



Your task is to create a medal for British soldiers who served in the Second World War that is just as symbolic and creative.

Your medal can be any shape or size but you must have considered the metal and ribbon choices.

You must include:

- The years of the war (1939-45)
- The colours of the Allies
- A symbol to signify the war and the soldier's sacrifice and victory
- A reference to the many theatres of the fighting (Europe, Africa, Asia, Air, Sea, Land)
- Annotations to explain your choices