

VE Day – Celebrations

This week at school we would have been celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE Day. VE Day is sometime called Victory in Europe Day and it is a day to remember the end of the Second World War. It is a day to remember the bravery and suffering of those who lived during the war and a day to remember the courage of the soldiers who fought during the war.

On May the 7th 1945, Germany surrendered the war. The first VE Day took place on May the 8th 1945. At 3pm on May the 8th 1945, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, made a speech to announce the end of the war.

This week you will have a range of VE day themed activities to complete at home. I wish we were in school this week because we would have had a brilliant school street party so instead I would love you all to join me and have a VE day party at your house at lunchtime on Friday 8th May. Wear red, white and blue and don't forget to take lots of pictures that we can stick into our floorbook.



Victory in Europe Day

Victory in Europe Day is usually called VE Day.



What Is VE Day?

- VE Day is a day to remember the end of the Second World War.
- It is a day to remember the bravery of those who lived during the war.
- It is a day to remember the soldiers who were in the war.

Time to Celebrate

- VE Day is always on May 8th.
- On May 7th 1945, Germany **surrendered** the war.
- People **celebrated** with street parties.
- People wore red, white and blue – the colours of the British flag.
- People waved flags.

Glossary

celebrate – to do something special for a special occasion

surrender – to agree to stop fighting



1. Complete this sentence:

Victory in Europe Day is usually called _____.

VE Day

Peace Day

PE Day

2. What do we remember on VE Day? Tick one.

- the end of the First World War
- the end of the Second World War
- the end of the Third World War

3. When is VE Day? Tick one.

- May 7th
- May 8th
- May 9th

4. What did people do to celebrate VE Day? Tick two.

- they went swimming
- they had street parties
- they wore red, white and blue
- they wore green, purple and pink

5. What does the word surrender mean? Tick one.

- to agree to go to a party
- to agree to stop fighting
- to say sorry

English Activities

- Imagine you are a soldier on the front line during the Second World War. You have just found out that the war in Europe is over. Write a diary entry about the experience, and how you feel.'
- Write instructions on how to make scones with jam and cream or cakes and then enjoy them at your VE day party.
- Complete the highlighting task attached
- Make a newspaper front page with the announcement that the war is over

Maths Activities

- Weigh ingredients to make scones or cakes for your VE day party.

Art Activities

- Make some union jack flags and bunting to decorate for your VE Day party.

Music/PE Activities

- Listen to some music from the 1940s and the wartime. Have a good old boogie and maybe learn some songs to sing... like these ones.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhL4kMvi4o4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xHncYtj4_A

Highlight in red the words and phrases that indicate happiness.
Highlight in blue the words and phrases that indicate relief.
Highlight in green the words and phrases that indicate
sadness.

Later in the evening we joined the crowds dancing around Bath Abbey until the small hours. Someone suggested going to London to celebrate there, so we caught the early morning train with a two hour journey to Paddington and somehow - tube, taxi, walking, I cannot remember - we made our way to St Paul's - the symbol of Britain surviving the Blitz. Hundreds of people were walking around.

As we left school on Monday 7 May the teachers told us that if there was an announcement during the evening that Germany had surrendered there would be a holiday for the next two days. The announcement came - and no way were we going to school, but some children and one or two teachers obviously did not listen to the wireless. As we went into the town where bunting was already being put up we passed the school and there on the steps - with the doors locked - was a small queue of children and my teacher. We quite happily passed by on the other side of the road.

During the show someone came in at the back of the theatre and called out, 'The War is over!' With one accord, the whole audience rose to its feet and cheered madly, it was wonderful. I don't know how we finished the show, we felt almost choked with emotion. I shall never forget hearing during the interval hundreds of happy voices singing, 'Take me back to dear old Blighty', it meant so much. Afterwards of course we heard that the war was not completely over, but I know that the whole company will always look on that day as being our Victory Day.


I remember quite clearly that my emotions at the time were mixed. On the one hand it was good to feel that perhaps some of my loved ones back home were taking part in the scenes that were now taking place, on the other hand I, and in hindsight, I'm sure most of my comrades, felt somehow cheated that we, who had 'risked life and limb' and had been away from home for so many years, were not there in England to share in the triumph.

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