

VE-DAY 75



History, Art and Design, Literacy, Music



Key Stage 2



30 minutes - 4 hours

When was VE Day?

Tuesday 8 May, 1945. This was the day after Germany had surrendered.

What happened on the day?

People paraded, partied, sang and danced in the street!

The Second World War took place between 1939 and 1945 and involved countries from across the world.

In Europe, Germany was Britain's main enemy. Britain worked with countries including Russia, France and the United States of America to defeat Germany. On 7 May 1945, Germany surrendered and the war in Europe was over.

The following day, on 8 May 1945, Britain celebrated the end of the war in Europe. The day was known as Victory in Europe Day or VE-Day. People celebrated with street parties, food and drink.

Britain was also fighting Japan in Asia. Japan did not surrender until 15 August 1945. So, the war continued in Asia even when it was over in Europe.

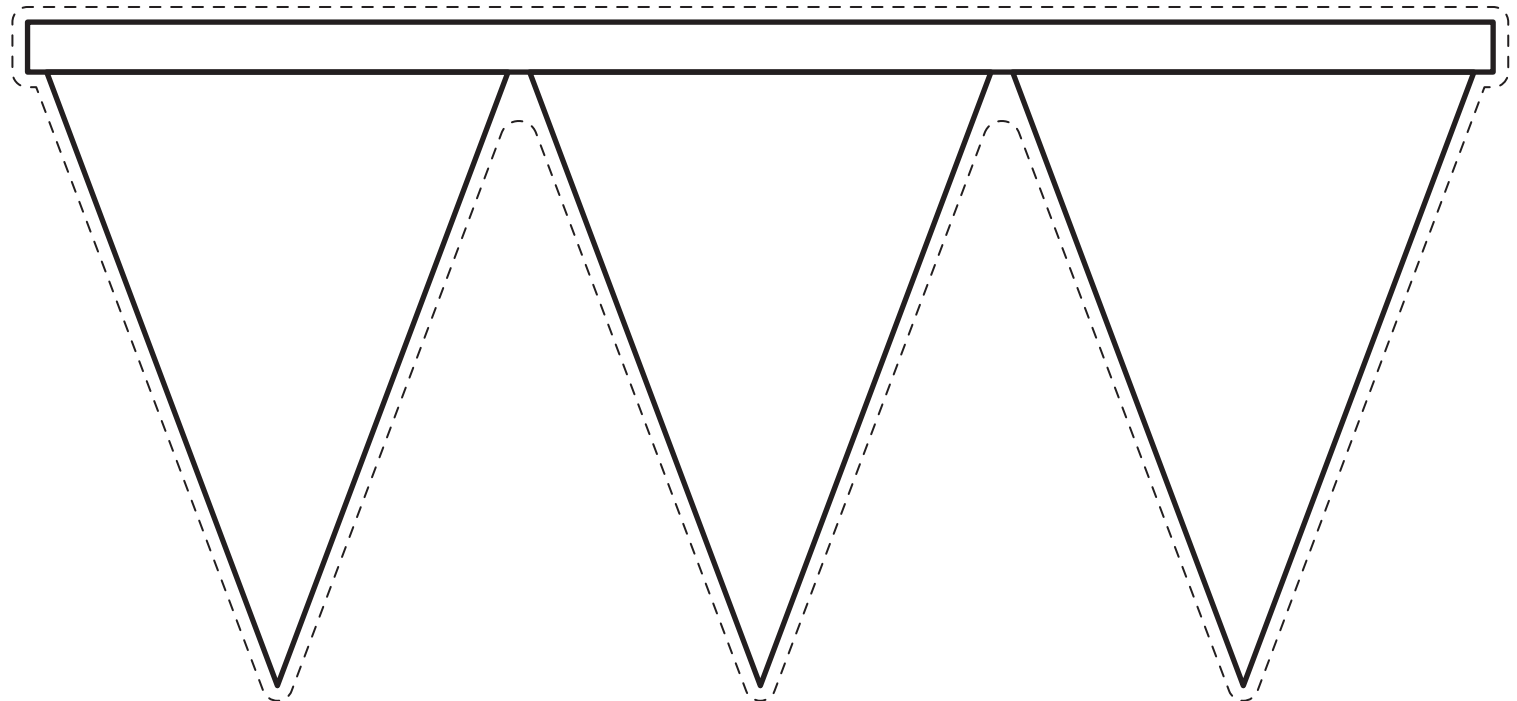
VE-Day was 75 years ago. This year, the country will be remembering the end of the Second World War. Discover more about VE-Day and how people celebrated the end of the war.

VE-Day Street Parties

To celebrate VE-Day red, white and blue bunting was hung in people's homes and in the streets.

Use the template to make your own bunting.

Hang your bunting in your window to remember the VE-Day celebrations.



VE-Day Street Parties

Tables and chairs were also put out in the streets and people had tea parties with their neighbours. They baked cakes, made sandwiches and bought drinks. However, rules were still in place about how much food people could buy. These rules were known as rationing and meant that people could only buy a certain amount of each ingredient. Children were only allowed a handful of sweets each week.

Here are a few of the foods that people ate on VE-Day:



Dripping sandwiches
Sandwiches made with beef fat



Pork faggots
Faggots were made from offal wrapped in fat and were served with gravy



Homity pie
Potato, onion and leeds, topped with cheese



Eggless fruit cake
Eggs were rationed, so people baked cakes without key ingredients.

What food would you miss the most if it was rationed today?

What food would you make to celebrate VE-Day?

People sang songs and danced to celebrate the end of the war. 'We'll Meet Again' by Vera Lynn was a popular song during the war.

Take a look at the lyrics below.

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day
Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away*

*So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know
Tell them I won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singing this song*

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

*Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Til the blue skies
Drive the dark clouds far away
So will you please say "Hello"
To the folks that I know
Tell them it won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singin' this song*

*We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day*

Why do you think the song meant so much to people during the war?

Can you find the song on YouTube and sing along with Vera Lynn?



VE-Day Street Parties

Can you find the words related to VE-Day in the word-search below?

Q	P	H	L	I	C	N	G	O	B	B	O	V	M	Q
I	V	I	C	T	O	R	Y	E	A	U	H	J	A	T
W	H	Y	K	C	J	Q	T	P	L	N	U	P	L	T
H	X	O	T	E	T	N	G	L	K	T	I	Z	L	H
H	E	B	O	L	R	M	I	B	R	I	T	A	I	N
Z	Q	U	E	E	N	H	F	B	A	N	Y	D	E	W
B	Z	R	U	B	C	S	R	W	O	G	G	E	S	P
S	K	K	J	R	G	K	G	A	R	G	C	P	O	A
V	F	P	U	A	R	I	R	Z	A	L	J	J	R	
W	J	H	L	T	C	E	K	A	E	E	R	X	P	T
B	C	F	W	E	P	A	Z	P	T	B	Y	S	U	Y
M	B	L	O	O	N	O	V	E	A	I	J	H	T	S
U	N	Q	R	S	V	Z	M	W	V	K	O	J	F	R
Z	Z	U	L	H	S	O	L	D	I	E	R	N	I	S
Q	E	L	D	E	J	R	N	O	C	N	B	F	A	C

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|---------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|
| ALLIES | CELEBRATE | FLAG | QUEEN | VICTORY |
| BRITIAN | CHURCHILL | PARTY | RATION | WAR |
| BUNTING | EUROPE | PEACE | SOLDIER | WORLD |

Chose one of the words and make an acrostic poem to commemorate VE-Day.

Here's mine:

- V** Very glad the war
- I** In Europe is over
- C** Come out and we will celebrate
- T** That our soldiers will come home
- O** Our men and women
- R** Return to us
- Y** Years after they left

Remembering People

In the Second World War, around 5 million men from Britain served in the armed forces, including in the British Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. They fought alongside people from countries around the world, including India, Canada, South Africa and Australia, United States of America and Russia.

Many women also served their country, working in the armed forces or on farms and in factories.

When the war in Europe ended, lots of people began the long journey home. However, many people had died in the war and some people had to stay abroad for months or years after VE-Day. Because of this, people felt a lot of different emotions on VE-Day.

Can you list some of the emotions that you think people may have felt?

Can you colour in the Second World War soldier?



Covid-19

The people who lived through the Second World War are now very elderly, all over the age of 75. They need to be protected from Covid-19.

Men and women across the country are working extremely hard to keep us all safe, including those who are elderly and lived through the Second World War.

Can you think of some of the jobs that people are doing to help us combat Covid-19?

Nurses are one of the groups working really hard to keep people safe.

Can you colour in the nurse?

When it is safe again, we will all be allowed outside again to live our normal lives.

What will you do to celebrate?

To discover more about VE-Day, you can visit our online exhibition **Tea for II** at www.thenma.org.uk