

VE Day

VE Day is the day that marks the end of the Second World War. 'VE' is short for 'Victory in Europe Day'. The very first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945, the day after Germany surrendered, which meant they agreed to stop fighting.

What Happened on the First VE Day?

The Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, announced the end of the war over the radio. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations. People danced in the streets around Britain and shared food. Others went to Buckingham Palace to see the King. Lots of people were dressed in red, white and blue. King George VI and his daughters Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret came out on the balcony to greet the crowds. Princess Elizabeth is now the current Queen, and she often says that VE Day 1945 is one day she remembers very well.

How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

VE Day is an important celebration. It is a day where we remember all of the people who gave their lives or were badly injured during the war. It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year war. All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, where it is recognised with church services.

What Can You Do This VE Day?

There are lots of things you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family. Decorate your home with Britain-themed bunting and flags – don't forget to use red, white and blue! Or, try to plan a VE Day party with your family using the foods people would have had after the war. It might be harder than you think!



Questions

1. What war does VE Day mark the end of? Tick one.

- ☐ The First World War
- ☐ The Second World War
- ☐ The Cold War
- ☐ The Gulf War

2. Who was king in 1945? Tick one.

- ☐ King Charles II
- ☐ King George VI
- ☐ King Henry VIII
- ☐ King George IV

3. How many years did the Second World War last for? Tick one.

- ☐ four years
- ☐ five years
- ☐ six years
- ☐ seven years

4. Join the boxes below to complete the sentences.

The Prime Minister of Britain,
Winston Churchill,

It is a day where we
remember all of the people

There are lots of things you
can do to celebrate VE Day

People danced in the streets

who gave their lives or were
badly injured during the war.

around Britain and
shared food.

announced the end of the
war over the radio.

while at home with
your family.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Decorate your _____ with Britain-themed _____ and _____
– don't forget to use _____, _____ and _____!

6. Name **two** of the people who came out on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to greet the crowds.

7. Summarise what happened on the first VE Day.

Answers

1. What war does VE Day mark the end of? Tick one.

- ☐ The First World War
- ☒ **The Second World War**
- ☐ The Cold War
- ☐ The Gulf War

2. Who was king in 1945? Tick one.

- ☐ King Charles II
- ☒ **King George VI**
- ☐ King Henry VIII
- ☐ King George IV

3. How many years did the Second World War last for? Tick one.

- ☐ four years
- ☐ five years
- ☒ **six years**
- ☐ seven years

4. Join the boxes below to complete the sentences.

The Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill,	who gave their lives or were badly injured during the war.
It is a day where we remember all of the people	around Britain and shared food.
There are lots of things you can do to celebrate VE Day	announced the end of the war over the radio.
People danced in the streets	while at home with your family.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Decorate your **home** with Britain-themed **bunting** and **flags** – don't forget to use **red**, **white** and **blue**!

6. Name **two** of the people who came out on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to greet the crowds.

Answers must include two of: King George VI, Princess Elizabeth (Queen Elizabeth) and Princess Margaret

7. Summarise what happened on the first VE Day.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The end of the Second World War was announced on the first VE Day. People celebrated with street parties and dancing in the street. Lots of people went to Buckingham Palace to see the King.

VE Day

VE Day is the historic day that marks the end of the Second World War. Short for 'Victory in Europe Day', the first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945, the day after Germany surrendered to the Allied forces. To surrender means to give up or agree to stop fighting. The Allies were made up of many countries, including America, Britain and France. 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the first VE Day, an important event in the history of the Second World War.

What Happened on the First VE Day?

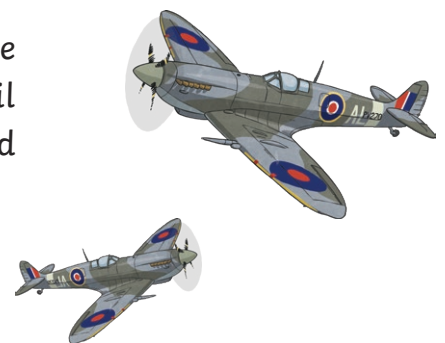
Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain, officially announced the end of the war over the wireless, an old-fashioned type of radio, at 3 p.m. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations. People held street parties across Britain where they shared food and danced in the streets. Large crowds gathered at Buckingham Palace with many people wearing red, white and blue. King George VI and his daughters Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret came out on the balcony to greet the crowds. The Princesses were allowed to secretly leave the Palace and celebrate with the people outside. Princess Elizabeth, now the current Queen, often says that VE Day 1945 was one of the "most memorable days of her life."

Did VE Day Mean the End of the War?

Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war. Fighting still continued in Japan until August, when Japan surrendered. This day is marked by VJ Day on 15th August in the UK.

How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

VE Day is an important celebration. It is a day where we take the opportunity to remember the people that sacrificed their lives or were badly injured during the war. It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year conflict. All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, where it is recognised with church services.



What Can You Do This VE Day?

There are lots of things you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family. Decorate your house with Britain-themed bunting and flags – don't forget to use red, white and blue! Or, try to plan a VE Day party using the foods people would have had after the war. It might be harder than you think!



Questions

1. What year did the Second World War end? Tick one.

- ☐ 1960
- ☐ 1990
- ☐ 1945
- ☐ 1940

2. Who was the Prime Minister on the first VE Day? Tick one.

- ☐ Winston Churchill
- ☐ Boris Johnson
- ☐ Margaret Thatcher
- ☐ Tony Blair

3. Complete the following sentence, as written in the text.

VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and... Tick one.

- ☐ Germany
- ☐ France
- ☐ America
- ☐ England

4. Number the events below to show the order they appear in the text.

The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Victory in Japan is marked by VJ day on 15th August in the UK.
- ☐ All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting.
- ☒ **1** This year is the 75th anniversary of the first VE day.
- ☐ Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war.
- ☐ Decorate your house with Britain-themed bunting and flags.

5. Look at the section titled **What Happened on the First VE Day?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **unforgettable**.

6. Why were many people dressed in red, white and blue during the celebrations?

7. Explain why VE Day is an important celebration.

8. How could you celebrate VE Day at home this year? Give an idea **not** mentioned in the text.

Answers

1. What year did the Second World War end? Tick one.

- ☐ 1960
- ☐ 1990
- ☒ **1945**
- ☐ 1940

2. Who was the Prime Minister on the first VE Day? Tick one.

- ☒ **Winston Churchill**
- ☐ Boris Johnson
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- ☐ Tony Blair

3. Complete the following sentence, as written in the text.

VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and... Tick one.

- ☐ Germany
- ☒ **France**
- ☐ America
- ☐ England

4. Number the events below to show the order they appear in the text.

The first one has been done for you.

- 3** Victory in Japan is marked by VJ day on 15th August in the UK.
- 4** All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting.
- 1** This year is the 75th anniversary of the first VE day.
- 2** Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war.
- 5** Decorate your house with Britain-themed bunting and flags.

5. Look at the section titled **What Happened on the First VE Day?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **unforgettable**.

memorable

6. Why were many people dressed in red, white and blue during the celebrations?

Because Britain's flag is made up of the colours red, white and blue.

7. Explain why VE Day is an important celebration.

Pupils' own responses, such as: VE Day is an important celebration because it gives people a chance to remember and thank all the people who gave up their lives or were badly injured in the war.

8. How could you celebrate VE Day at home this year? Give an idea **not** mentioned in the text.

Pupils should develop their own ideas. Responses should not include: hanging Britain-themed flags or bunting, dressing up in red, white and blue, having street parties or parades, or making foods using ingredients people had after the war.

VE Day

On Monday 7th May 1945 at 2:41 a.m., German General Jodl signed the unconditional surrender document that ended the Second World War in Europe. VE Day is the historic day that marks this important event. Short for 'Victory in Europe Day', the first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945, the day after Germany surrendered to the Allied forces. Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister for Britain, declared the day a national holiday. 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the first VE Day, an important event in the history of the Second World War.

What Happened on the First VE Day?

Winston Churchill officially announced the end of the war over the wireless, an old-fashioned type of radio, at 3 p.m. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations. People held street parties across Britain where they shared food and danced in the streets. Bells rang out from churches across the country and around 20,000 people gathered at Buckingham Palace, waiting to catch a glimpse of the King. Lots of people were dressed in red, white and blue. King George VI and his daughters, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, came out on the balcony to greet the crowds. The Princesses were allowed to secretly leave the Palace and celebrate with the people outside. Princess Elizabeth, now the current Queen, often says that VE Day 1945 was one of the "most memorable days of her life."



How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

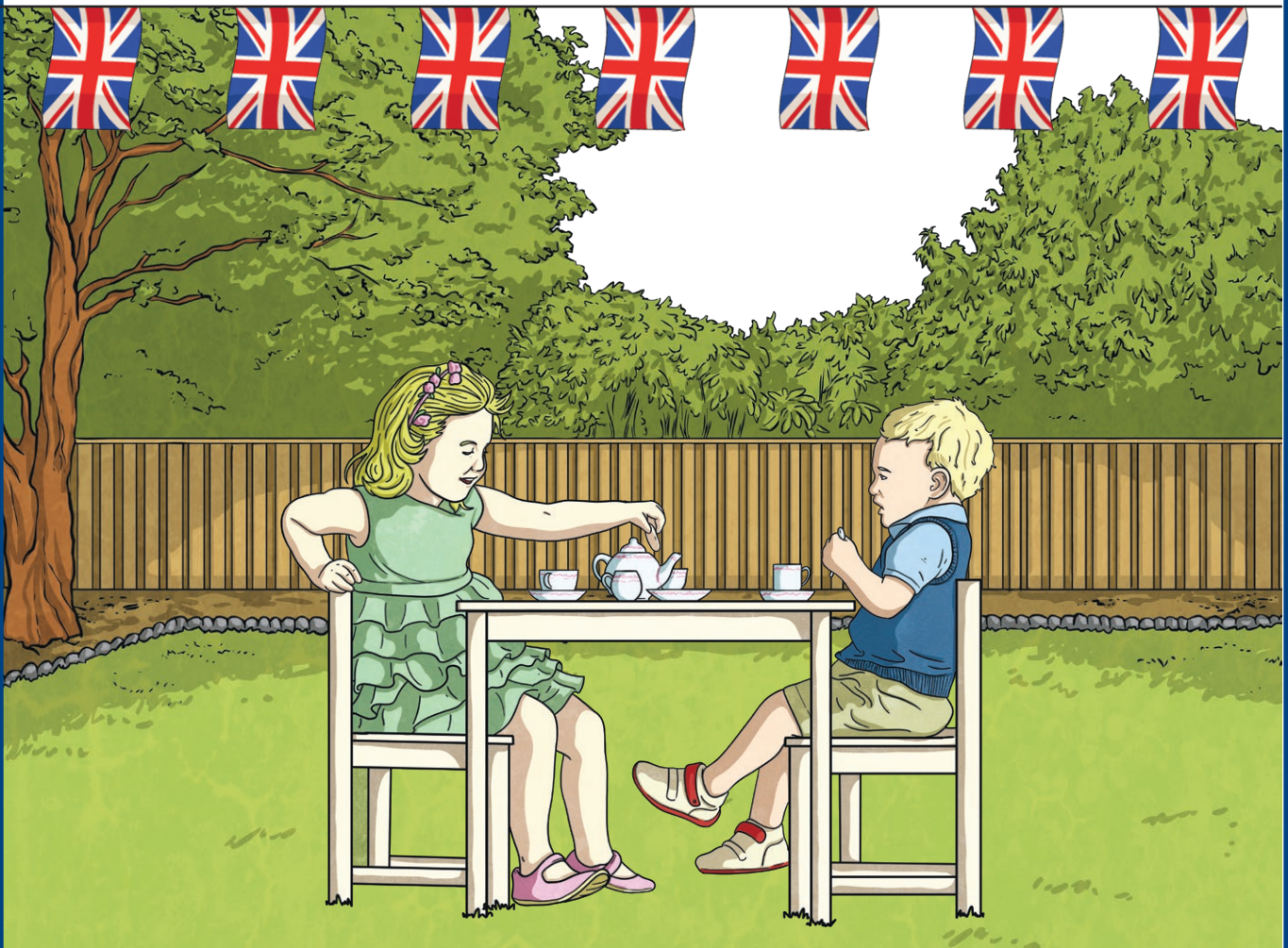
VE Day is an important celebration. It is a day where we take the opportunity to remember the people that sacrificed their lives or were badly injured during the war. It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year conflict. All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event. To mark the 75th anniversary, town criers around the country and further afield will unite in a special announcement called 'A Cry for Peace Around the World'. VE Day is recognised and celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, with church services, processions and parties.

What Happened after VE Day?

Although VE Day meant peace in Europe, it was not the end of the war around the world. Many people were still sent to fight in Japan, where the conflict continued until August. The day Japan surrendered is marked by VJ Day, short for 'Victory in Japan'. It is celebrated on 15th August in the UK. Even after the war, life continued to be a struggle in Britain. Many people were deeply affected by the terrible loss of life. The war was also very expensive so the country had to rebuild and recover slowly.

What Can You Do This VE Day?

There are lots of things you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family. Decorate your house with Britain-themed bunting and flags – don't forget to use red, white and blue! Or, try to plan a VE Day party using the foods people would have had available after the war. It might be harder than you think!



Questions

1. Who signed the unconditional surrender? Tick one.

- ☐ Winston Churchill
- ☐ King George VI
- ☐ General Jodl
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth II

2. Where did approximately 20,000 people gather on the first VE Day? Tick one.

- ☐ Big Ben
- ☐ Buckingham Palace
- ☐ Kensington Palace
- ☐ Houses of Parliament

3. Look at the first section of the text. Find and copy a word which means **gave up**.

4. Why do you think VE Day 1945 was one of the most memorable days of the Queen's life?

5. What special announcement will be heard to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day?

6. Why do you think it **might be harder than you think** to plan a party using only foods available after the Second World War?

7. Compare the sections titled **What Happened on the First VE Day?** and **How Do People Celebrate VE Day?**. How are the celebrations similar and how are they different?

8. Summarise what life was like right after the first VE Day.

Answers

1. Who signed the unconditional surrender? Tick one.

- ☐ Winston Churchill
- ☐ King George VI
- ☒ **General Jodl**
- ☐ Queen Elizabeth II

2. Where did approximately 20,000 people gather on the first VE Day? Tick one.

- ☐ Big Ben
- ☒ **Buckingham Palace**
- ☐ Kensington Palace
- ☐ Houses of Parliament

3. Look at the first section of the text. Find and copy a word which means **gave up**.
surrendered

4. Why do you think VE Day 1945 was one of the most memorable days of the Queen's life?

It was memorable because she got to leave the Palace and secretly celebrate with the people, which she would have not been able to do very often as she was so famous.

5. What special announcement will be heard to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day?

Town criers will take part in a special cry called, 'A Cry For Peace Around the World.'

6. Why do you think it **might be harder than you think** to plan a party using only foods available after the Second World War?

Pupils' own responses, such as: It might be hard because people might not have had all the foods we have today available. There may have been shortages after the war.

7. Compare the sections titled **What Happened on the First VE Day?** and **How Do People Celebrate VE Day?**. How are the celebrations similar and how are they different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The celebrations are similar because people still hang up bunting and have parties and food to celebrate. They are different because it is not a national holiday anymore and people don't usually dance in the street on VE Day anymore and church bells don't always ring. The Queen also doesn't join in with people's parties.

8. Summarise what life was like right after the first VE Day.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Life was hard right after the first VE Day because a lot of money had been spent during the Second World War and people were very upset that so many people had died. Some soldiers were still fighting in Japan until a few months later.