Welcome to the VE and VJ History Challenge.

On the 8th May the Nation will come together to celebrate 75 years since VE day known as Victory over Europe, but war continued in Japan until August VJ day announced the end of World War Two.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT ABOUT MAY 8TH?

This year, the May Bank Holiday is being moved to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

It is a day to remember the contribution of British, Commonwealth and Allied armed forces during WWII, including those on the Home Front.

It's also an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in the UK Armed Forces.
Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight tonight, but in the interests of saving lives the “Cease fire” began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today.”

Winston Churchill

“Let us remember those who will not come back... let us remember the men in all the services, and the women in all the services, who have laid down their lives. We have come to end of our tribulation and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing.”

King George VI

Millions of people lost their lives

18,000,000
18 million service personnel killed

45,000,000
45 million civilians killed

67,000
67 thousand killed in air raids in the UK

Civilian: a person who served on the Home Front
Service personnel: people serving in the armed forces
Watch the video clip about VE day
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CdpghxDR8&feature=youtu.be

**WHAT WAS VE DAY?**

**Victory in Europe: 8th May 1945!**

After six years of devastating war, Germany signed an unconditional surrender on **7th May 1945**. Finally, the war in Europe was at an end.

Interrupting its usual programming, the BBC broadcasted to the nation that the war in Europe was over and that the next day (8th May) would be a public holiday known as **VE Day**.

Huge crowds gathered in public spaces. This is Trafalgar Square, in London. There were more celebrations around the world, from the USA to Australia.
VE Day marked the end of conflict in Europe, but not the end of hardship. People still had family members serving abroad or confined in prisoner of war camps.

Many servicemen were sent to the Pacific to continue to fight. The war in the Pacific would continue until August 1945. Rationing in Britain would continue until 1954.

However, VE Day marked the point that people across Europe could begin to rebuild their lives.
**Challenge key:**
You do not need to complete all of them—just do some

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EASY TASK</strong></th>
<th>This task should be simple and appropriate for all age ranges.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEDIUM TASK</strong></td>
<td>A little bit harder, most of the time it will be a longer task than the easy task.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HARD TASK</strong></td>
<td>This task will need you to think for yourself and adapt the information given to answer questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHALLENGE TASK</strong></td>
<td>This will involved props and ingredients (we understand you may not have this available so do you best)</td>
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Send pictures of what you have done to fun friday and be part of the video
Tune into the BBC at 3pm to hear Winston Churchill’s victory speech or 9pm to hear the Queen’s speech.
Watch Mervyn’s story.

His story is about invading Japan. (4 minutes)

https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/veterans_stories/
Compare the two planes shown on the right. Which would have been your choice of transport in the war? Why?

**Spitfire (Mark I)**
- **Air force:** British Royal Air Force (RAF)
- **Crew:** 1
- **Engine:** 1030 horsepower
- **Fuel injection:** no (the engine would cut out in a vertical dive)
- **Length:** 9.1 m
- **Wingspan:** 11.2 m
- **Weight:** 2651 kg
- **Wing shape:** elliptical
- **Max. speed:** 580 km/h
- **Max. altitude:** 9300 m
- **Flight range:** 668 km
- **Weapons:** machine guns

**Messerschmitt Bf 109**
- **Air force:** German air force (Luftwafe)
- **Crew:** 1
- **Engine:** 1175 horsepower
- **Fuel injection:** yes (the engine continued to work during extreme manoeuvres)
- **Length:** 8.9 m
- **Wingspan:** 9.9 m
- **Weight:** 2060 kg
- **Wing shape:** trapezoid
- **Max. speed:** 550 km/h
- **Max. altitude:** 11,000 m
- **Flight range:** 660 km
- **Weapons:** machine guns and cannons
Answer the following questions about VE day. (To help you answer read the next 4 slides)

1. When did the war begin?
2. What does “VE” stand for?
3. VE signalled the end of the war in Europe only. What happened next outside of Europe?
4. At the time of VE Day, were people aware of the atrocities that had occurred during the war?
5. What key events were shaped by the end of WW2?
6. Why was it important that Princess Elizabeth joined the Armed Services during the war?
7. Why did the Queen say that she was glad that Buckingham Palace had been bombed?
8. Churchill thanked the nation on VE day, stating that the victory belonged to ‘the Great British nation as a whole’.
9. How did British people at home help the war effort?
VE DAY: HOW IT HAPPENED

Telegram - Immediate

Victory in Europe: 8th May 1945!

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Interrupting its usual programming, the BBC broadcasted to the nation that the war in Europe was over and that the next day (8th May) would be a public holiday known as VE Day.
As the news spread around the country, people immediately began to celebrate, dancing in the street with joy.

On the 8th of May, communities all over Britain came together to celebrate VE Day with street parties, parades and religious services.
During the war Princess Elizabeth enlisted in the Women’s Auxiliary Territorial Service, training as a mechanic and military truck driver. She was the first female royal to join the Armed Services as a full time member.

The King and Queen remained in London during the war and when Buckingham Palace was bombed the Queen famously said:

“I am glad. I can now look the East End in the face.”

On VE day Princess Elizabeth proudly wore her uniform as the official Peace Declaration was announced by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in front of huge crowds.
“My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It’s a victory of the great British nation as a whole.”

Winston Churchill, VE Day, 8th May 1945

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_-CdpqhxDR8&feature=youtu.be
Read each statement about life during the war and decide whether or not each statement is still true of Britain today!

| A. During the war, many mothers went to work. | D. Lessons were often interrupted and many children didn’t achieve the expected standards of literacy and numeracy. | G. People looked after their clothes. They mended them when necessary, used clothing exchanges and made their own new clothes. |
| B. Food, including sweets, was rationed to ensure everyone got a fair and equal share. | E. There was no TV so people listened to the radio, read comics and went to the cinema. | H. Not many toys were available. Board games and card games were popular. Children made their own toys and invented games. |
| C. Everyone was involved in saving and recycling materials. | F. Many families were separated. Fathers were away fighting. Children were evacuated from towns and cities and went to live with hosts in the countryside. | I. Older children went to work and younger children were expected to help out by salvaging materials and growing vegetables. |
Join the nationwide sing-along at 9pm to Vera Lynn’s ‘We’ll meet again’

https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-singalong
Create a Diary entry of someone after just hearing about VE day.

- What would it have felt like?
- Where are they?
- Are they going to celebrate?
- What are they looking forward to?
Create a Diary entry of a child stuck in the middle of the blitz. Watch the video below to help you.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4idj7fl6OZg
The Dan Snow VE Creative Competition. Think about how you would tell the story of VE Day today.
Poster? Poem? Play?
It’s up to you

https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/dan-snows-ve-day-challenge
What are the 9 things you should know about VE day. Read the link below and summarise the 9 points.

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/nine-things/
Watch a live lesson 4pm today about VE day

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC88lvyJe7aHZmcvzvubDFRg/videos
Play the interactive comic novel that is based on true events from VE day (yes it is a game!)

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/tell-me-your-secrets/zdwd382
COMPLETE THE WORKSHEET ABOUT HOW CHILDREN FEEL IN WARTIME.

SOURCE 1

The day before VE Day – and a few days before her 13th birthday – Betty Allen received a telegram saying her father had been killed.

“It didn’t seem fair that he had gone through the war and right at the very end he had to lose his life.”

We were thinking he would be coming home soon,” she said. “It felt dreadful. I really didn’t know what to do.”

Betty Allen, speaking to BBC Radio Sheffield.

PUT YOURSELF IN THE SHOES OF A BRITISH CHILD ON VE DAY:

01. What experiences might they have had during the War?

02. How would they have felt on VE Day?

Happy  Sad  Afraid  Uncertain  Relieved  Hopeful

Other:

03. How would they want their life to be different after VE Day?

04. How might they want people to remember VE Day in the future?

https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/growing-up-in-the-second-world-war
Watch the video about rationing in the war. Compare it to our lives now.

What is different?
Would you be able to live off of rations?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuO1CYsPf_M
Recreate some wartime cooking by following some recipes.
SAVOURY SNACKS

CHEESE & MARMITE SWIRLS

12 oz / 340g plain white or wholemeal flour
4 oz / 115g margarine
4 oz / 115g strong cheddar cheese
2 eggs (or 7 tbsp dried eggs)
1 teaspoon dried mustard powder
Salt and pepper
3 teaspoons of quick rise dried yeast
Marmite for spreading

METHOD

1. Mix together the flour, mustard powder, seasoning, yeast in a large bowl.
2. Break up the margarine and rub into the dry mixture, then add in the grated cheese.
3. Mix in the two beaten eggs and knead until a dough is formed.
4. Next, flour your work surface and rolling pin. Roll out the dough into an oblong shape about 1 cm thick. You can make two smaller batches by breaking the dough in half.
5. Spread the Marmite across the dough sheet, then roll up into a long Swiss roll shape and slice along with a sharp knife. This recipe makes about 30 swirls.
6. Place swirls on a greased baking tray, and brush with a little milk (optional) to glaze.
7. Place in the oven at gas mark 6 / 200°C for about 12-20 minutes.

SWEET TREATS

CARROT SCONES

12 tbsp self raising flour & 1 teaspoon baking powder – sifted together
2 tbsp butter (or margarine)
4 tbsp sugar
8 tbsp grated carrot
A few drops of vanilla essence
English Heritage Raspberry Preserve

METHOD

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°C. Grease a baking tray.
2. Leave the butter out so that it becomes nice and soft to work with – this makes it easier to mix in the sugar. Beat these until they are light and creamed.
3. Add in the grated carrot, a bit at a time. It won’t look like the prettiest thing in the world – but stick with it. Add in the vanilla.
4. Slowly add the sifted flour. The more you beat, the more moisture the carrots will release to bind the mixture together. You will be left with a ball of sticky carrot-flecked dough.
5. Pinch and roll the desired amount between your hands. This recipe should make around 12 scones.
6. Place on baking tray and sprinkle with a little sugar (optional). Cook in the centre of the oven for about 20 minutes.
7. Once firm on top and at the sides, remove from the oven and cool before serving with raspberry preserve.
Or maybe a wartime drink?

**DRINKS**

**GINGER BEER**

1 gallon / 4.5 litres of boiled water
1 lb / 450g sugar
½ oz / 14g yeast
1 level teaspoon ground ginger
1 level teaspoon cream of tartar

**METHOD**

1. Put the yeast in a basin with 280ml water and 1 tsp of sugar. Stir and leave to stand until the yeast rises.

2. Put the boiled water, sugar, ginger and cream of tartar into a large jug. Once the water is lukewarm warm, stir in the yeast.

3. Leave to stand until cool, then skim well and bottle carefully. It will be ready for use in two days.

**LEMONADE**

3 lemons
2 oz / 55g granulated sugar
2 pints / 1.2 litres water

**METHOD**

1. Peel the rind from the lemons and cut them into 1cm slices.

2. Place the lemon rinds in a bowl and sprinkle the sugar over them. Let this stand for about an hour.

3. Boil the water and then pour over the sugared lemon rinds. Allow this mixture to cool and then strain.

4. Squeeze the lemons into another bowl. Pour the juice through a sieve into the sugar mixture. Stir well, pour into a jug and pop it in the fridge. Serve with ice.
VE Day 75:
Virtual tea party cupcake recipe

Ingredients
- 110g/4oz butter or margarine, softened at room temperature
- 110g/4oz caster sugar
- 2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 110g/4oz self-raising flour
- 1-2 tbsp milk

For the buttercream icing
- 140g/5oz butter, softened
- 280g/10oz icing sugar
- 1-2 tbsp milk

Method
1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 and line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cases.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl until pale. Beat in the eggs a little at a time and stir in the vanilla extract.
3. Fold in the flour using a large metal spoon, adding a little milk until the mixture is of a dropping consistency. Spoon the mixture into the paper cases until they are half full.
4. Bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes, or until golden-brown on top and a skewer inserted into one of the cakes comes out clean. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin and cool on a wire rack.
5. For the buttercream icing, beat the butter in a large bowl until soft. Add half the icing sugar and beat until smooth.
6. Then add the remaining icing sugar with one tablespoon of the milk, adding more milk if necessary, until the mixture is smooth and creamy.
7. Spoon the icing into a piping bag with a star nozzle and pipe the icing using a spiralling motion onto the cup cakes in a large swirl.
Make your own bunting!

Decorate your front room, bedroom, window or another part of your living space by creating bunting to celebrate VE day!
There are a few templates in the next couple of slides to help you or, if you are super creative, why not do your own!
Bunting template
BUNTING TEMPLATE
1/ CUT OUT AS MANY PENNANTS AS YOU NEED
2/ CUT ALONG DASHED LINES TO INSERT STRING

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
BUNTING TEMPLATE

1/ CUT OUT AS MANY PENNANTS AS YOU NEED
2/ CUT ALONG DASHED LINES TO INSERT STRING
VE Day 75:
Virtual tea party bunting

Discovery Education
Learn a dance from wartime.