



Year 5 - English

English learning objectives

LO: To demonstrate understanding of a wide range of vocabulary.

LO: To note and develop initial ideas for writing

LO: To always proof read writing for errors

LO: Retrieve and summarise information from texts, identifying key details

History learning objectives

LO: To discuss the impact of significant historical events, people and places in your own locality. (p.4 & 7)

LO: To identify and describe changes within and between different periods in history. (p.9)

VE Day - 8th May 1945



What do the adults in your family know about VE day?



What do you know about VE day?



Overview

VE Day or Victory in Europe Day marked the end of fighting in Europe during the Second World War - which had lasted nearly 6 years.

On 7th May 1945, Winston Churchill announced on the radio that Germany had officially surrendered.

He declared that the next day (8th May) would become Victory in Europe day and a national holiday for everyone.

Activity

1. Listen to Churchill's full speech here:

<https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1941-1945-war-leader/end-of-the-war-in-europe/>

2. **Email your class teacher** with 3 sentences that include the word **surrender**.

3. **Email your class teacher** with 3 sentences that include the word **victory**.

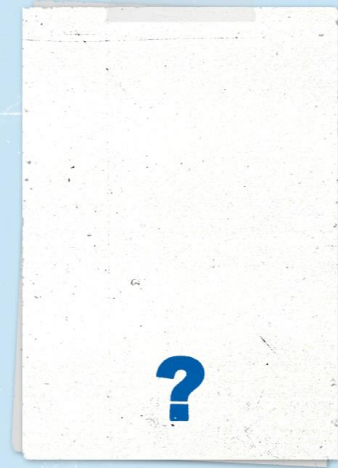
Key questions - **email your answers to your class teacher**

1. How do you think people felt hearing those words on the radio?

2. What do you know about VE Day?

3. What do members of your family know or remember about VE Day? Were any of them there?

8th May 2020
75th Anniversary of
Victory in Europe



Overview

This year it is the 75th anniversary of VE Day - which means that 75 years ago on the 8th May, war in Europe ended.

To commemorate the event, the early May bank holiday (usually a Monday) has been moved so that the bank holiday is the same day as VE Day - Friday 8th May.

Activities

- 1 Email your class teacher with 3 sentences that include the word sacrifice.*
- 2 Email your class teacher with 3 sentences that include the word liberate or liberation.*

Key questions - email your answers to your class teacher

- 1. Why was VE day such an important day?*
- 2. Why do you think it is important that we remember VE Day?*



←
Crowds gathered
to celebrate

Overview

On VE Day, people held big celebrations across Britain such as parades or street parties.

The largest crowds were in London with one crowd reaching up to 50,000 people celebrating into the night.

Huge crowds also gathered outside Buckingham Palace where the King and Queen, their daughters and the Prime Minister appeared on the balcony to greet everyone.

Activity

Create a soundscape!

Look closely at the picture and now imagine you are in it- list all of the sounds you can hear.


Key questions - email your answers to your class teacher

- 1. Why did people come together on VE Day to celebrate?*
- 2. How do you think the people in this picture were feeling?*
- 3. Can you find any evidence of how VE day was celebrated in West Bromwich?*

Triumph and Sorrow on VE Day

“ Let us turn our thoughts to this day of ... triumph and ... sorrow.”

Winston Churchill

 **Triumph:** a great victory or achievement

 **Sorrow:** a feeling of great sadness



Overview

Winston Churchill gave a speech recognising the importance of remembering those who lost their lives. On VE day, there was a mix of feelings. It was a time for celebrating the end of the war, but it wasn't only a *celebration*, it was also a sad time because:

- Millions of people had lost their lives or loved ones in the conflict.
- There was a lot of damage after the war, for example many people's homes were destroyed in the air raids.
- Soldiers who survived and were able to return home were full of the memories of war and conflict
- Many people weren't home yet - including Prisoners of War or evacuees

Activities

- 1 *Email your class teacher* 3 sentences that include the word *triumph*
- 2 *Email your class teacher* 3 sentences that include the word *sorrow*

Key questions - *email your answers to your class teacher*

1. Why do you think people felt both victorious and sad on VE day?
2. What were they celebrating?
3. What things have you felt triumphant about - what achievements have you been proud of?

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 serving on the Home Front



Service personnel: people serving in the armed forces

Overview

Between 50 - 60 million people died in WW2.

Out of those deaths, 45 million were civilians (people not serving in the armed forces).

Nearly 18 million service personnel were killed on the battlefields in Europe, including 11 million Allies.

Activities

- 1 *Email your class teacher* 3 sentences that include the word *civilian*
- 2 *Email your class teacher* 3 sentences that include the word *service personnel*

Key questions - *email your answers to your class teacher*

1. Many lost people they loved in the war - how might this have affected how they felt on VE day?

Homes, buildings and streets were damaged

I...

I...

What might they be thinking or feeling?



What do you notice in the background of this picture?

© Crown Copyright. IWM This image was taken on VE Day - two small girls waving their flags in the rubble of Battersea, London.

Overview

Homes, buildings and streets had been damaged across the UK during the war.

Everyone had worked hard to end the war but there was still a lot more work to do - the country needed to be rebuilt.

Activity

Complete the thought bubbles to show what the two little girls might have been thinking and feeling on VE Day.

Research the impact of the Blitz on West Bromwich and write a paragraph summarising what you have learned. *Email your paragraph to your class teacher.*

Key questions - *email your answers to your class teacher*

- 1 What can you see in the background of the picture and on the floor?
- 2 What might the girls in the picture be looking at?
- 3 How might the girls be feeling? What could they be thinking?

Soldiers returned home with memories of war and conflict



Overview

For those soldiers who survived and returned home at the end of the war, it wasn't all about celebration.

Many were distressed about what they had seen and experienced during the war.

Those returning home included surviving Prisoners of War (POWs) - soldiers who had been captured by enemies.

Key questions - email your answers to your class teacher

1 How do you think soldiers felt about returning home?

Many people hadn't returned home yet

There were 40 million refugees scattered across Europe



This picture shows a large group of Polish refugees in Germany, waiting to be returned to Poland



Refugees: people who have been forced to leave their country due to war, violence, conflict or persecution.

Overview

On V.E Day, although some people were at home taking part in the celebrations, there were still many people who had not made it home yet.

There were approximately 40 million refugees scattered across Europe trying to get home.

Millions of people never even returned home at all and some had to find new homes in different countries.

Activity - *take a photo and email it to your class teacher*

Draw a picture of your home. Label some of things that you would miss the most.

Key questions - *email your answers to your class teacher*

- 1 How would it feel to not be able to go back to your home?
- 2 What would you miss?
- 3 How did the home/belongings of a child in the 1940 differ from your home today? (Hint - think of the items that have been invented since 1945 and are in your home)

Michael Wetton's Story: A Child Evacuee



In 1939, Michael, aged 6, and his two older siblings were evacuated from London to the Essex coast.

For the first 2 years, he was moved from home to home and he found it very hard being away from his family and home in London.

To begin with, Michael was kept together with one of his brothers. But after a while they were separated and were sent to live with different families.

In 1941, he finally found a family to live with, where he felt happy. Aunty Rhoda and Uncle Tom looked after him well for the next four years.

Sadly, during the air raids, Michael's home in London was bombed. His mum survived, but they lost all of their possessions and no longer had a house to live in.

On VE Day, when others were celebrating the end of the war, Michael was still an evacuee, unable to return home to be with his family.



Evacuees were sent to live with other families in safe areas of the country whilst London was being bombed.

Overview

Michael was one of many children who were evacuated from London during the war.

Evacuees were sent to live with other families in safe areas of the country whilst London was being bombed.

Michael's experience stayed with him forever, and throughout adulthood he dedicated himself to helping others.

He became a teacher and supported charities like Save the Children.

Key questions - email your answers to your class teacher

- 1 What would it have been like to be an evacuee?
- 2 What things might Michael have missed about being at home?
- 3 How do you think Michael felt on VE day?

VE Day Reflection

On the 75th anniversary of VE day, let us:

- Give thanks to the Second World War generation for protecting the freedoms, democracy and ways of life we enjoy today
- Remember the bravery, service and sacrifice of the British and Commonwealth Armed forces who fought in the war; those who lost their lives, those who were still trying get home, and those who didn't have a home to return to
- Remember those who contributed to the war effort, including emergency services, families and civilians
- Do we know anybody in our communities or families who remembers WW2 and could share their stories with us?

Overview

Commemoration of VE Day will take place on Friday 8th May across the world.

Home celebrations will be vitally important to ensure everyone remembers VE Day and remembers the sacrifices made.

Key questions - email your answers to your class teacher

1. What kinds of celebrations could you have at home to mark the occasion?