# VE Day 75th Anniversary

## What is VE Day?

Victory in Europe Day - also known as VE Day - celebrates the Allied Forces accepting the Nazi's unconditional surrender from World War 2. The final document was signed on 8 May 1945. Today, countries throughout the world celebrate VE Day annually, on either the 8th or 9th May.

## How do we celebrate VE Day today?

Celebrations and remembrance services vary from place to place. In the UK, we generally celebrate VE Day with a 2-minute silence at 3 pm. It gives us a chance to remember the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives and to reflect on the unimaginable pain and suffering caused by the war. And it's for this reason that VE Day is still important today. This year there will be a broadcast by the Queen at 9pm on BBC One, followed by a national singalong of We'll Meet Again, led by Dame Vera Lynn who is now 103 years old. Why not join in on your doorstep.

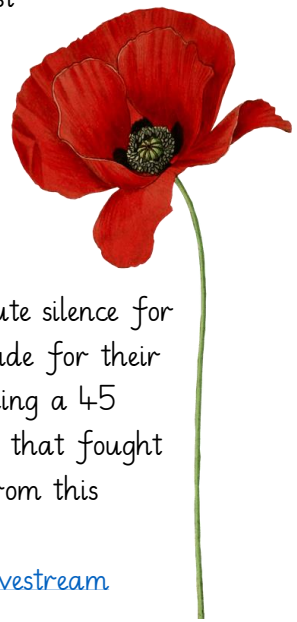
**Here are some fun activities to celebrate VE Day.** We would love you to share your learning and facts with us either by email or on our school twitter @EllisonPrimary

☺ **Enjoy!**

## British Legion

The British Legion is a charity who provide financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants. They are best known for the poppy appeal. The poppy is used as a symbol because after the First World War they were one of the only flowers to grow in the fields of Northern France where so many soldiers died. Click the link to find out more about the poppy as a symbol.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15492228



### British Legion Live Stream

At 11:00am on the 8th May there will be a two minute silence for people to remember the sacrifice that people have made for their country. At 11:15am the British Legion will be streaming a 45 minute chat between two generations. The generation that fought in the Second World War and with young people from this generation.

https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-75-livestream

## Create a peace display

Think about what peace looks like to you and the actions we could take every day to achieve this. Create a peace display to remind yourself and others to be kind to each other.



## Watch

There are lots of different clips to watch online about VE Day and the Second World War in general. Here are some we think you may enjoy.

Horrible Histories have a really catchy song, that also help you to learn about VE Day.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/horrible-histories-songs-ve-day-song

The BBC have a very informative video about VE Day which will give you a great insight.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr

We also have a video showing clips from real life VE Day footage, with our very own Mrs Rohrmann reading a special VE Day poem by Patricia Denise Newman over the top. Google Drive Link.

## Code Cracking

Cracking codes was a very important part of the War, cracking the Nazi's Enigma Code helped to turn the tide of the War. Read about how it was cracked here.

Have a go at cracking some codes yourself with this Morse Code activity. Google Drive Link.

Or if you are really amazing at codes try these tough CIA kids code breaking activities.

https://www.cia.gov/kids-page/games/games_code.html

## Science

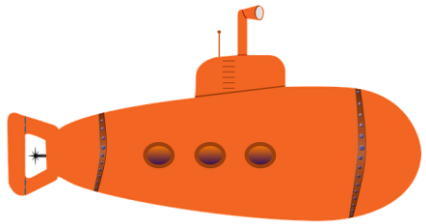
During WWII many of the attacks took place during the night. In fact certain phases of the moon were given nicknames by the RAF men such as 'Bombers Moon'. On numerous occasions famous battle dates were set in order to take advantage of the certain phase of the moon. Investigate the different phases of the moon. You could even record the phases of the moon that you can see from home, on this moon diary. Google Drive Link.

Submarines became powerful forces of action in WWII as they had the ability to hide beneath the surface of the sea, yet still attack ships and boats as they sailed with precious cargos either of provisions or fighting men and their equipment. In order to see where their target was they used periscopes. This was also true of the soldiers who were in the trenches who used periscopes to watch the enemy. Can you design and create your own periscope?

Google Drive Link – Periscope activity instructions.

Google Drive Link – Periscope activity template.





## Research

This Pdf includes information on VE Day, what happened on this day, the next few days, when the war was declared over, how people celebrated and more. Try using it to put together your own fact file. Google Drive Link.

## Dance

As you can imagine the relief of the end of the War encouraged lots of people to celebrate. This included lots of dancing. A very popular dance at the time was called the Lindy Hop. The 'Lindy Hop' is a swing dance that originated in New York in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It gained popularity in the UK in the 1940s thanks to the American servicemen stationed here during the Second World War.



This brilliant pack from English Heritage has instructions on how to do the Lindy Hop, as well as a Spotify playlist to dance to. Plus they also have recipes to make some 1940's snacks and drinks.

https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/eh-ve-day-at-home-pack.pdf

English Heritage VE Day Spotify Playlist.

## Art

Bunting, little flags on string, became a popular way to celebrate events after the war. Follow the BBC link below to make your own to celebrate this VE Day.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting

Here is a video clip about making bunting for VE Day from Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson MBE.

https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/injured-paratrooper-ben-parkinson-backs-ve-day-bunting-campaign-2550255

## Cooking

Food plays an important part in any celebration and VE Day was no different. What made it difficult however was rationing. This meant that everyone was allotted a certain amount of food. For example you would only be allowed one egg and three rashers of bacon a week. People had ration books to make sure that they got what they needed. Why not write down the top ten things you would want in your rations. Compare to the official rations list on the link below. https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Rationing-in-World-War-Two/

## Recipes

Why not try some of these VE Day recipes? If you make any be sure to send us some pictures. Google Drive Link

## Design

Design a VE day medal for soldiers thanking them for their service and showing the country's gratitude. Think about the colours that you use and what they represent. Think about pictures that you could include and what they stand for. What will your medal be made of? It can't be too expensive but also needs to be long lasting.

## Writing

Newspapers were the most important sources of information in the 1940's. Can you make you own VE Day front page. Make sure you include a big headline and the sort of information people would be after. The front page would also have a big picture included, look at these VE Day pictures for inspiration. https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/ve-day-in-pictures/