

National
Literacy
Trust

Changing life stories

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



VE DAY

8th May 1945

WHAT IS VE DAY?



Parent / carer guidance

This presentation has been designed to help families learn about VE Day: what it was about, what people's experiences of it were, and why it is important to commemorate the event.

Each slide has a notes section which includes:

- 'Talking Points' - to support discussion with your child(ren) around the key learning points
- Suggested activities - for your child(ren) to complete to develop their understanding
- A brief overview - to support with understanding the information in each slide.
- You will find the notes section at the bottom of each slide during 'normal view' or to the side of the powerpoint in 'presenter view'.

You will need: a pen, paper, a dictionary and an atlas or map of the world

It would be a good idea to read through the presentation before sharing with your child(ren). We suggest using the 'brief overviews' to explain each slide to your child(ren) and to then use the talking points and activities as prompts for developing their understanding. Children could also write their responses to the Talking Points if they wish to.



VE Day - 8th May 1945: A National Holiday



“ Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight to-night...
...the German war is therefore at an end.

Winston Churchill



How do you think people felt hearing those words?



Was the war over for everyone?

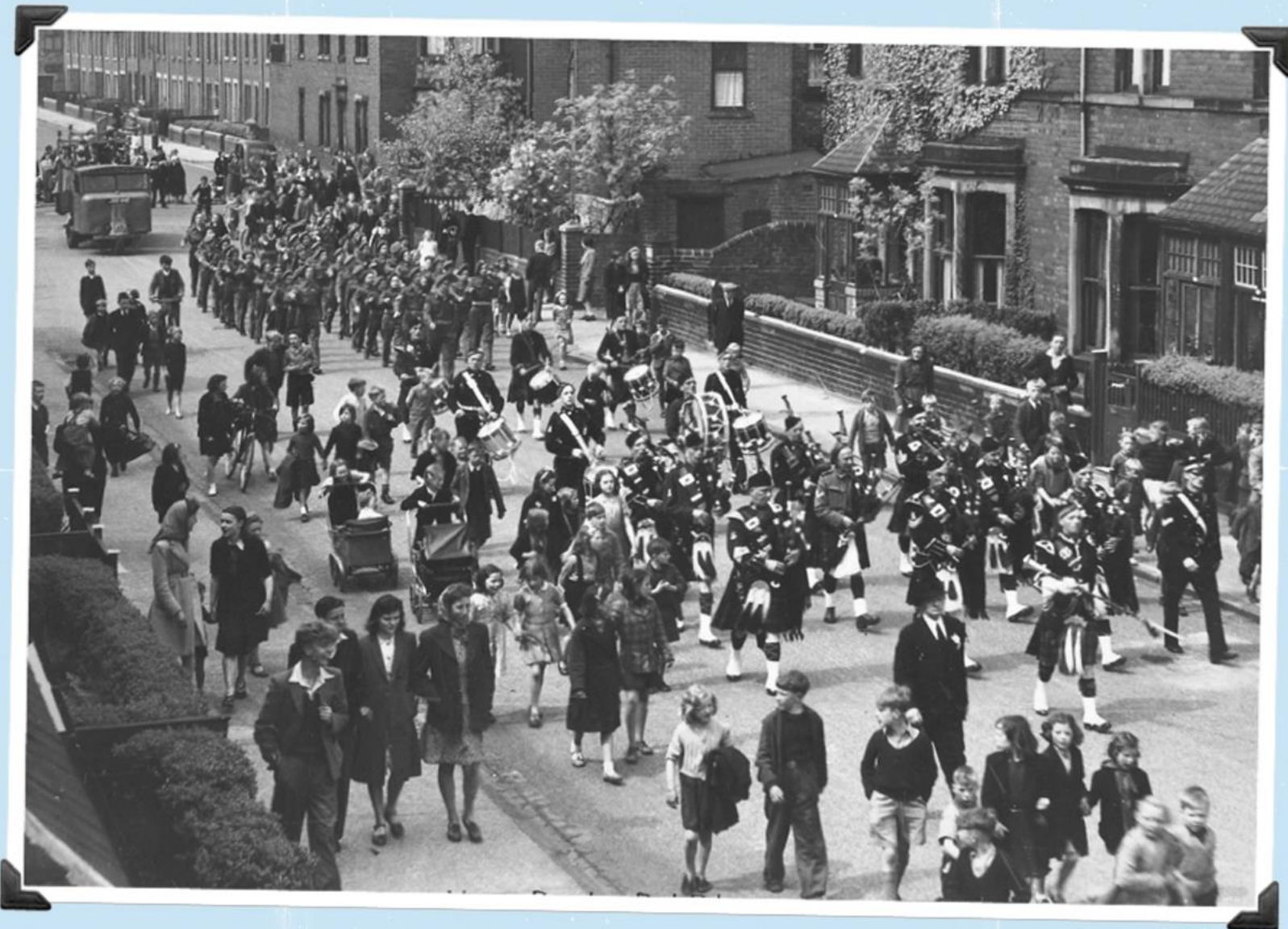


8th May 2020 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe



Why do you
think it is
important that
together we
remember VE
Day?





←
Crowds gathered
to celebrate

Triumph and Sorrow on VE Day

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

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 serving on the Home Front



Service personnel: people serving in the armed forces

A veteran's experience of VE Day



 **Veteran:** a person who served in the Armed Forces

Soldiers returned home with memories of war and conflict





Allies: friends; people or countries who work together

Geoffrey Hather's Story: A Prisoner of War

Geoffrey was 16 years old when the war started. In 1941, aged 18, he enlisted in the RAF.

3 years later, when he was flying over Germany, his plane was shot down. He survived but was captured and spent the next year in a Prisoner of War camp.

One morning in 1945, an American Jeep came to the camp and the soldiers were told that they were freed. They were flown back home, and Geoffrey was treated in hospital for many injuries.





Geoffrey felt scared about returning home. He dreaded having to face big celebratory banners and large crowds of people.

He found coming home difficult. So much had changed. His family couldn't understand what he had been through – and he had no idea what they had suffered in the air raids.

“

“I don't think anybody who has been a prisoner of war has ever become normal again... You can't go through an experience like that and be the same again.”

Geoffrey Hather

Many people hadn't returned home yet

There were 40 million refugees scattered across Europe



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

There was a lot of work still to do

How might it have felt to be faced with the task of physically rebuilding the UK?



In which other ways did the country need to be rebuilt?



What did VE Day mean to everybody?



How might different people
have felt about VE Day?



Would their feelings have
been similar or different?



VE Day Reflection

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

- Celebrate the end of the war in Europe
- Give thanks for the service and sacrifice of everybody who contributed to the war effort to protect our freedoms
- Remember the impact the war had on individuals and hope for a peaceful future
- How can your family commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May this year?



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Do we know anybody in our communities
or families who remembers WW2
and could share their stories with us?

A taste of war time?



Plan a VE day party menu! What special party dishes might people have made to share with their friends and family on VE Day?

TOP TIP

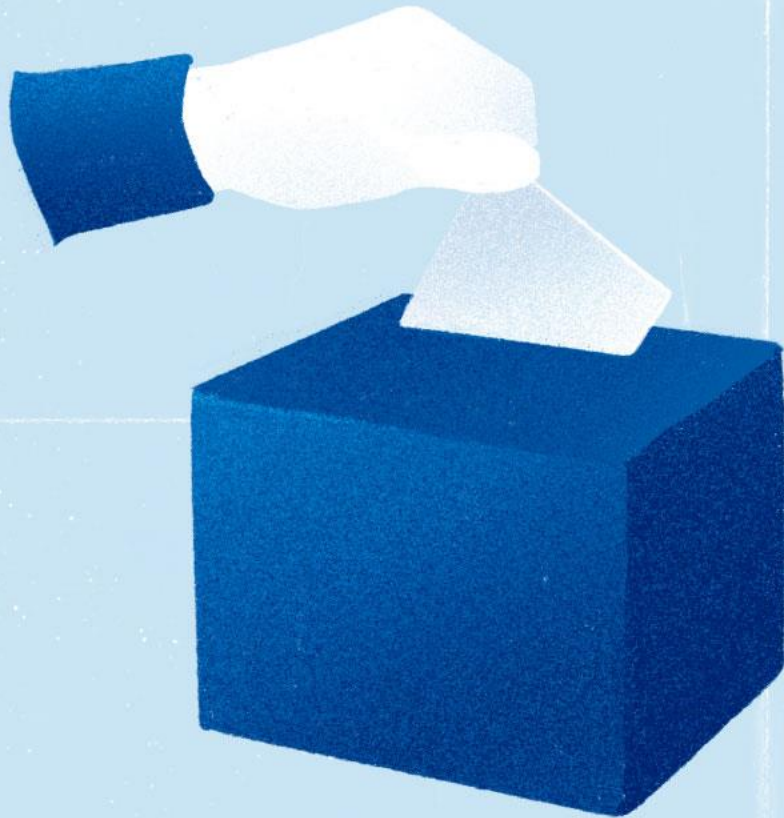
Food was rationed during wartime so you will need to find out what food was available before you design your meal!

TAKE IT FURTHER

You could try making a war time recipe from your party menu such as a cake or some lemonade, to share with your family on VE day.

[Download template](#)

Notes of thanksgiving



[Download template](#)

- Write a note explaining the reasons you are thankful to the Second World War generation

TOP TIP

Think about everybody who worked together to ensure a peaceful future – the soldiers who left their homes to fight, the nurses and doctors who looked after people who were injured by the war, the people who grew food in their gardens and allotments to feed the country, the resistance workers who risked their own safety to stop others being harmed, the children who had to leave their homes to ensure they could stay safe and healthy.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Do you know someone who lived through the Second World War? You could write your letter to them and post it or share it with them online.



Create a peace display

- Design a poster that encourages people to be kind each other.

TOP TIP

Find somewhere to display the poster so as many can see it as possible.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Learn the word for “peace” in as many different languages as you can.

[Download template](#)

Find out what VE Day was like



- Using Skype, Zoom or Facetime, talk to somebody you know who lived through the Second World War to find out about their experience of VE Day:
 - What did you do to celebrate?
 - How did it feel knowing that the war in Europe was over?
 - Who joined in the celebrations with you? Was anyone missing and why?
 - What is one thing you remember very clearly about the day?

TOP TIP

Plan out your questions as though you are interviewing the person. Think about what their answers to your questions might be before you ask them, based on what you already know about VE Day and other people's experiences.

TAKE IT FURTHER

If you don't know anyone from the Second World War generation, research someone's life and try writing a diary entry from their perspective.

Date: 8th May 1945

Dear Diary...



Picture of our VE Day celebrations

Love from

VE Day Party Menu

Starters:

Picture

Picture

Main:

Dessert(s):

Picture

Dress code:



Peace

Pokóí

Paix

平和

Frieden

Paiz

Salam

A note of thanksgiving