VE day - 8th May 1945 – 75 Years ago!

Watch this BBC video about VE day.
 https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr

At 3pm on 8th May 1945, The Prime Minister Winston Churchill made a radio speech to tell Britain that the war was over. This resulted in a nation rejoicing with men, women and children throwing parties, lighting fires and ringing bells. The skies were also full of planes marking victory high above them.

How was VE Day celebrated in 1945?

There were street parties and parades throughout the Western world - especially in the UK and the USA. More than a million people took to the streets in Great Britain, with the greatest crowds in London. The day was declared a national holiday with pubs opening late.

The war was not fully over, however, as Japan had still yet to surrender (they would do so on 2 September 1945). Both Churchill (leader of GB) and Truman (leader of USA) echoed this fact in their broadcasts, citing the event as "a victory only half won".

For lots of people, the day was a solemn affair. Throughout Europe, wives had lost husbands and families had been torn apart by the war. VE Day was a chance to grieve and reflect.

Still, for many people of both nations, VE Day signalled an end. It gave them a glimpse of a future that was not entirely governed by a global war. And for the families who were lucky enough to be reunited with loved ones, it was a day worth celebrating.

How do we celebrate VE Day today?

Celebrations and remembrances 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 is the 75th anniversary of VE Day so **Friday 8th May 2020 will be a bank holiday** instead of the normal Monday.

We would like you to have a go at some of these fun creative activities, you could even make some bunting, do some cooking and re-create a VE Day street party in your home!

Design a VE Day Medal

This medal celebrated the end of the First World War and was given to soldiers who had fought in active theatres of the war. It was a symbol of **great pride** but its design was also highly **symbolic**.

A rainbow symbolises the calm after the storm.

The years of the First World War – 1914-18

The colours are the combined colours of the Allied nations with red at the centre.

Winged figure is 'Victory'.
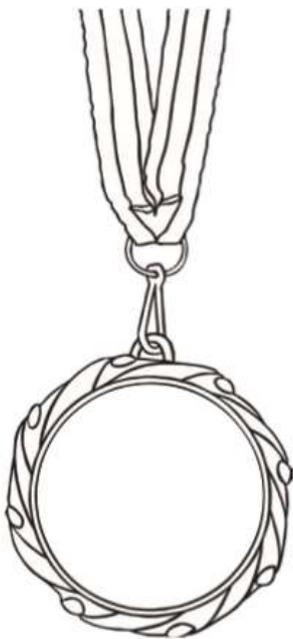
Your task is to create a medal for British soldiers who served in the Second World War that is just as symbolic and creative.

Your medal can be any shape or size but you must have considered the metal and ribbon choices.

You must include:

- The years of the war (1939-45)

- The colours of the Allies

- A symbol to signify the war and the soldier's sacrifice and victory

- A reference to the many theatres of the fighting (Europe, Africa, Asia, Air, Sea, Land)

- Annotations to explain your choices

VE Day Teacup Design

Victory in Europe (VE) Day took place on 8th May 1945. It marked the end of the Second World War in Europe.

VE Day was commemorated in many ways, including the production of special cups.

UNITED FOR VICTORY

- Do you recognise the people on the cup? Who are they?
- Why is there a flag on the cup?
- What do you think the slogan on the cup means?
- Why do you think commemorative cups like this were made?

Design your own VE Day cup. Think about your design and make sure it is bright and eye-catching. You could include flags and important people or buildings

WARTIME RECIPES

DIG FOR VICTORY
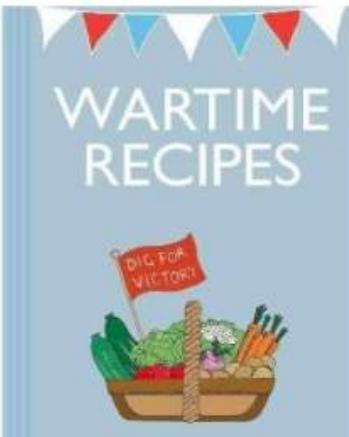
Research **food during WW2** and do some cooking – take photos and let us know how it goes!

A •—	N —•
B —•••	O ———
C —•—•	P •——•
D —••	Q ——•—
E •	R •—•
F ••—•	S •••
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I ••	V •••—
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A •—	N —•
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L •—••	Y —•——
M ——	Z ——••

Morse code is a way to send messages without using words. The code has its own alphabet made up of short and long sounds or flashes of light.

Use the Morse code alphabet to make your own wartime messages for a member of your household to decipher or for your teacher!

Postcard task

Imagine you were at the first VE day and heard the news that the war had ended.

What might you tell your family about what you heard? What you did? What you ate?

Draw a picture on the reverse showing what happened.