

# VE Day

On the 7th of May 1945, Germany surrendered (gave up fighting the war) to Western and Russian military commanders. The next day, the 8th of May, was declared as the official day of celebration. People all over Europe were tired of years of hardship and bombing, they wanted to return to a normal life again.

In London, tens of thousands of people came into the city centre. They listened to a speech by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Trafalgar Square which was delivered over the radio through huge loudspeakers. George VI, Queen Elizabeth and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, also greeted the cheering crowds from their balcony at Buckingham Palace. Princess Elizabeth and her sister were allowed to leave the palace and celebrate with crowds outside, although they had to do it secretly. The future Queen described it as "one of the most memorable nights of my life".

People across the UK put up flags, banners and streamers were everywhere. There were parties, fireworks, and some people wore red, white and blue rosettes. We still celebrate VE day today as sign of continued peace and we remember those across Europe who fought in WWII. Read more about VE day here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749>

Your choice of tasks:

1. Create your own speech as if you are Winston Churchill declaring the news (you will need to use formal language - no contractions or slang, and try to include some ambitious vocabulary choices) You might be able to watch this news report of his speech to see what it was like

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEavcsrMoMw>

2. Create a VE day poem or an acrostic poem – use the words VE DAY or VICTORY (or choose your own)

3. Make a PowerPoint about the 75th VE Day and why it is special

4. Imagine you are in Britain during this time – write a diary entry, making sure you include your feelings, both positive and negative. You may have been evacuated and living somewhere else, or you may have family members that had been killed during the war.

5. Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes was once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers. It was incredibly important in helping Britain to win the war. Have a go at creating your own coded message. You could give each letter of the alphabet a number, then write a maths question that has to be answered to work out each letter in the word/phrase.

If you have any spare bunting, you could put it outside your house, and have your own garden party – maybe you could include relatives via an online group chat provider.

