

VE Day

VE Day is the day that marks the end of the Second World War. 'VE' is short for 'Victory in Europe Day'. The very first VE Day was held on 8th May 1945, the day after Germany surrendered, which meant they agreed to stop fighting.

What Happened on the First VE Day?

The Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, announced the end of the war over the radio. Millions of people were waiting for the fighting to stop and there were many celebrations. People danced in the streets around Britain and shared food. Others went to Buckingham Palace to see the King. Lots of people were dressed in red, white and blue. King George VI and his daughters Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret came out on the balcony to greet the crowds. Princess Elizabeth is now the current Queen, and she often says that VE Day 1945 is one day she remembers very well.

How Do People Celebrate VE Day?

VE Day is an important celebration. It is a day to remember all of the people who gave their lives or were badly injured during the war. It is also a chance for us to celebrate the day that brought peace to Europe after a long and difficult six-year war. All over the country, people hang up red, white and blue bunting and hold street parties and parades to mark the event. VE Day is also celebrated in other countries, including Belgium and France, where it is recognised with church services.

What Can You Do This VE Day?

There are lots of things that you can do to celebrate VE Day while at home with your family. Decorate your home with Britain-themed bunting and flags. Don't forget to use red, white and blue! Or, try to plan a VE Day party with your family using the foods that people would have had after the war. It might be harder than you think!



Questions

1. Which war does VE Day mark the end of? Tick one.

- ☐ The First World War
- ☐ The Second World War
- ☐ The Cold War
- ☐ The Gulf War

2. Who was the king of England in 1945? Tick one.

- ☐ King Charles II
- ☐ King George VI
- ☐ King Henry VIII
- ☐ King George IV

3. For how many years did the Second World War last? Tick one.

- ☐ four years
- ☐ five years
- ☐ six years
- ☐ seven years

4. Draw **four** lines and complete the sentences.

The Prime Minister of Britain,
Winston Churchill, ...

It is a day to remember ...

There are lots of things that
you can do to celebrate ...

People danced in the streets ...

who gave their lives or were
badly injured during the war.

around Britain and
shared food.

announced the end of the
war over the radio.

while at home with
your family.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Decorate your home with Britain-themed _____ and _____.
Don't forget to use red, white and blue!

6. Name **two** of the people who came out on the balcony at Buckingham Palace to greet the crowds.

7. Summarise what happened on the first VE Day.
