

# VE DAY

## 8th May 1945

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WHAT IS VE DAY?

National  
Literacy  
Trust

Changing life stories

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



# Parent/Carer Guidance

- This presentation has been designed to help you support your child's understanding of VE Day: what it was about, what people's experiences of it were and why it is important we commemorate the event.
- In the notes section of each slide, you will find:
  - talking points to aid discussion -your child(ren) could write responses to the talking points if they wish to do so.
  - and/or an activity for your child to complete – some of these require a pen and paper
  - a brief overview to support with understanding each slide.
- We recommend reading through the presentation before sharing with your child(ren).



# VE Day - 8th May 1945

What do the  
adults in your  
family know  
about VE day?



What do you  
know about VE  
day?



# 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



**Triumph:** a great victory or achievement



**Sorrow:** a feeling of great sadness





# 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

# Homes, buildings and streets were damaged

I...

I...



What might they  
be thinking or  
feeling?

What do you  
notice in the  
background of  
this picture?



# Soldiers returned home with memories of war and conflict

How do you think  
returning soldiers felt  
about coming home?

?





# Many people hadn't returned home yet

There were 40 million  
refugees scattered  
across Europe



This picture shows a  
large group of Polish  
refugees in Germany,  
waiting to be returned  
to Poland



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



# Michael Wetton's Story: A Child Evacuee



In 1939, Michael, aged 6, and his two older siblings were evacuated from London to the Essex coast.

For the first 2 years, he was moved from home to home and he found it very hard being away from his family and home in London.



To begin with, Michael was kept together with one of his brothers. But after a while they were separated and were sent to live with different families.

In 1941, he finally found a family to live with, where he felt happy. Aunty Rhoda and Uncle Tom looked after him well for the next four years.

Sadly, during the air raids, Michael's home in London was bombed. His mum survived, but they lost all of their possessions and no longer had a house to live in.

On VE Day, when others were celebrating the end of the war, Michael was still an evacuee, unable to return home to be with his family.



Evacuees were sent to live with other families in safe areas of the country whilst London was being bombed.



# VE Day Reflection

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

- Give thanks to the Second World War generation for protecting the freedoms, democracy and ways of life we enjoy today
- Remember the bravery, service and sacrifice of the British and Commonwealth Armed forces who fought in the war; those who lost their lives, those who were still trying get home, and those who didn't have a home to return to
- Remember those who contributed to the war effort, including emergency services, families and civilians
- 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](#)



# Create a peace display



Design a poster to remind everyone to be kind to each other.

## TOP TIP

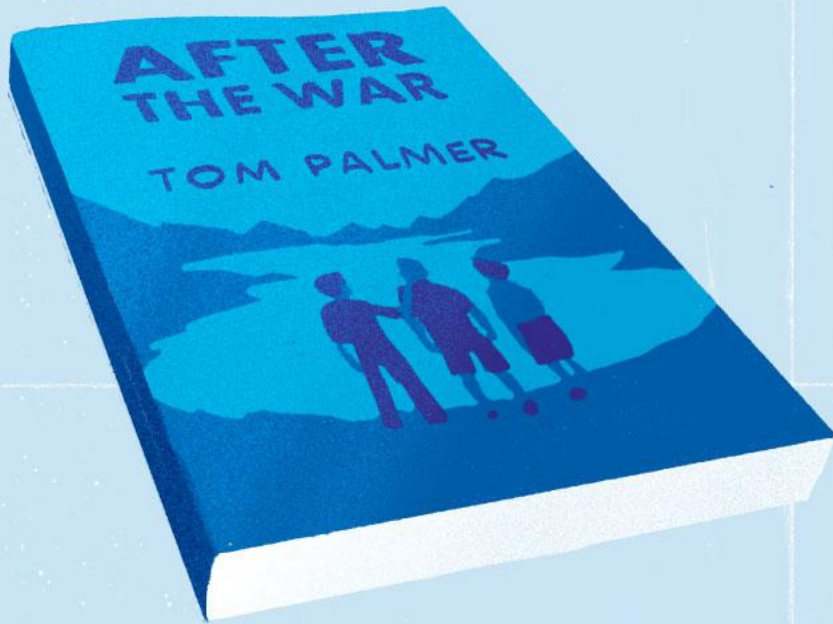
Find somewhere to display the poster so as many can see it as possible.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

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

[Download template](#)

# Share stories of VE Day



[Download template](#)

Transport yourself back in time and write a VE Day diary entry. Imagine what it would have been like to take part in a VE day street parade or party. Think about:

- 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?
- Why might there have been a feeling of sadness too?

## TOP TIP

Use the information you have learnt in this presentation to help you describe what happened on VE Day and how it felt. You might like to write from the perspective of a child evacuee, using Michael Wetton's story to help you.

## TAKE IT FURTHER

You might like to read a story about VE Day or WW2 to learn more about what it was like.





# Step back in time

Learn some 1940s dance moves to celebrate VE Day. You might like to find out about the popular 1940s dance: The Lindy Hop!

## TOP TIP

You could film yourself performing some of the dance moves or even create a tutorial for your family so that they can learn too!

## TAKE IT FURTHER

You could learn some popular 1940s songs to sing along to and perform on VE Day.

[Watch the Lindy Hop](#)