VE Day Learning Resources

Below is some inforrmation, links to films, clips and ways to find out more about VE day and its significance in our British History.

Picture News

What's going on?

Since 1945 the end of World War Two in Europe has been marked by Victory in Europe Day, better known as VE Day. On 8th May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before. This year, the 8th May 2020 will mark 75 years since the first VE Day! Until the current Covid-19 crisis struck, there had been plans to stage celebratory events and street parties in many places. Sadly, this has all had to be cancelled but many have chosen to celebrate virtually! Holding video parties, decorating our homes or baking to celebrate whilst we are all in lockdown!

Question:

What is VE Day?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster image, have we heard of VE Day before? Read through the text above and explain that this year is extra special as it's the 75th Anniversary of VE Day!
- Watch the useful video below, what one word would you use to describe the emotions of the people who finally heard the announcement about the end of the war with Germany?
- Read through the poem from the resource written about VE Day by Jack Woods. Can you imagine how it felt hearing such positive news about the end of the war with Germany?
- Explain that following the announcement, huge crowds, with people dressed in red, white and blue gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London. They cheered as King George VI and his family, including Princess Elizabeth (the current queen) and Princess Margaret, came out onto the balcony to greet everybody. 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".
- As 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of VE Day with most of us inside our homes in lockdown, many are finding creative ways to celebrate online! With virtual street parties, decorating homes, dressing up and baking! Will you be celebrating? If so, how?

Reflection

VE Day was a very special day in our history, the end of the war with Germany bringing with it, huge joy and celebration but also a chance for reflection. This year marks the 75th Anniversary – a time for us to look back and think about an important time in our history.

Challenges!

Challenge 1 –Write a poem imagining you are an evacuee and VE Day has just been announced! Can you perform it in front of your family?
Challenge 2 –Create an image or model of a soldier to place in your window for VE Day.

Web Links

Ideas and activities to celebrate VE Day at home
https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/toolkit/

Useful Video – What is VE Day and how can we celebrate this year?
https://bit.ly/2Ws7NtU

Send us your challenges!

Email help@picture-news.co.uk
Twitter @HelpPicture
Facebook /PictureNewsPrimary

BBC Teach VE Day Films and Clips

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr

D Day to VE day Film Part 1

https://vimeo.com/410531029

D Day to VE day Film Part 2

https://vimeo.com/410527753

Resource

Read through the poem below written about VE Day by Jack Woods. Can you imagine how it felt hearing such positive news about the end of the war nearing?

Memories of a 12-year-old evacuee
By Jack Woods

The war is won. It's VE day.
A wild excitement fills the air.
Grown-ups busy, children play
among the tables, standing there
in roads bedecked with myriad flags
and bunting hung across the street.
Women dressed in their best 'rags'
pile tables high with things to eat.
Men pull rafters from a bomb site,
building a gigantic fire.

Hitler, sitting very upright,
waiting for his funeral pyre.
Ernie plays the old 'joanna',
favourite tunes that won the war.
Any song for just a tanner;
money goes to help the poor.
Beer and whisky flow like water,
hoarded for this special day.

This poem was submitted to the BBC People's War site by Anastasia Thorne from WAYCS/ Action Desk on behalf of Jack Woods and has been added with her permission.