



*VE Day 75 resources created by Andrew Powell-Thomas*

[www.andrewpowell-thomas.co.uk](http://www.andrewpowell-thomas.co.uk)



VE Day is such an important point in our history that it deserves to be marked and remembered. It was the moment that nearly six years of fighting in Europe came to an end and changed the landscape of the world that we live in today.

I hope that you find these resources useful and can use them to help celebrate this special occasion. There are a whole range of activities and ideas, some suited towards younger children, and others more suitable for older children. Use them as you see fit, they are free for anyone to use, so do please share them!

*Andrew*

Photograph acknowledgements:

1: VE Day street party – public domain.

2: Churchill waves to crowds. Public Domain

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Churchill\\_waves\\_to\\_crowds.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Churchill_waves_to_crowds.jpg)

3: VE Day street party

<https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/12931951.gallery-rejoicing-in-the-streets-how-bournemouth-poole-and-dorset-celebrated-ve-day/#gallery0>

4: VE Day in London

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:VE\\_DAY\\_Piccadily\\_1945.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:VE_DAY_Piccadily_1945.jpg)

5: Children on VE Day – Press Association

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ve-day-70th-anniversary-how-ordinary-britons-celebrated-the-end-of-war-in-europe-10230302.html>

6: Medals – public domain and authors own collection.

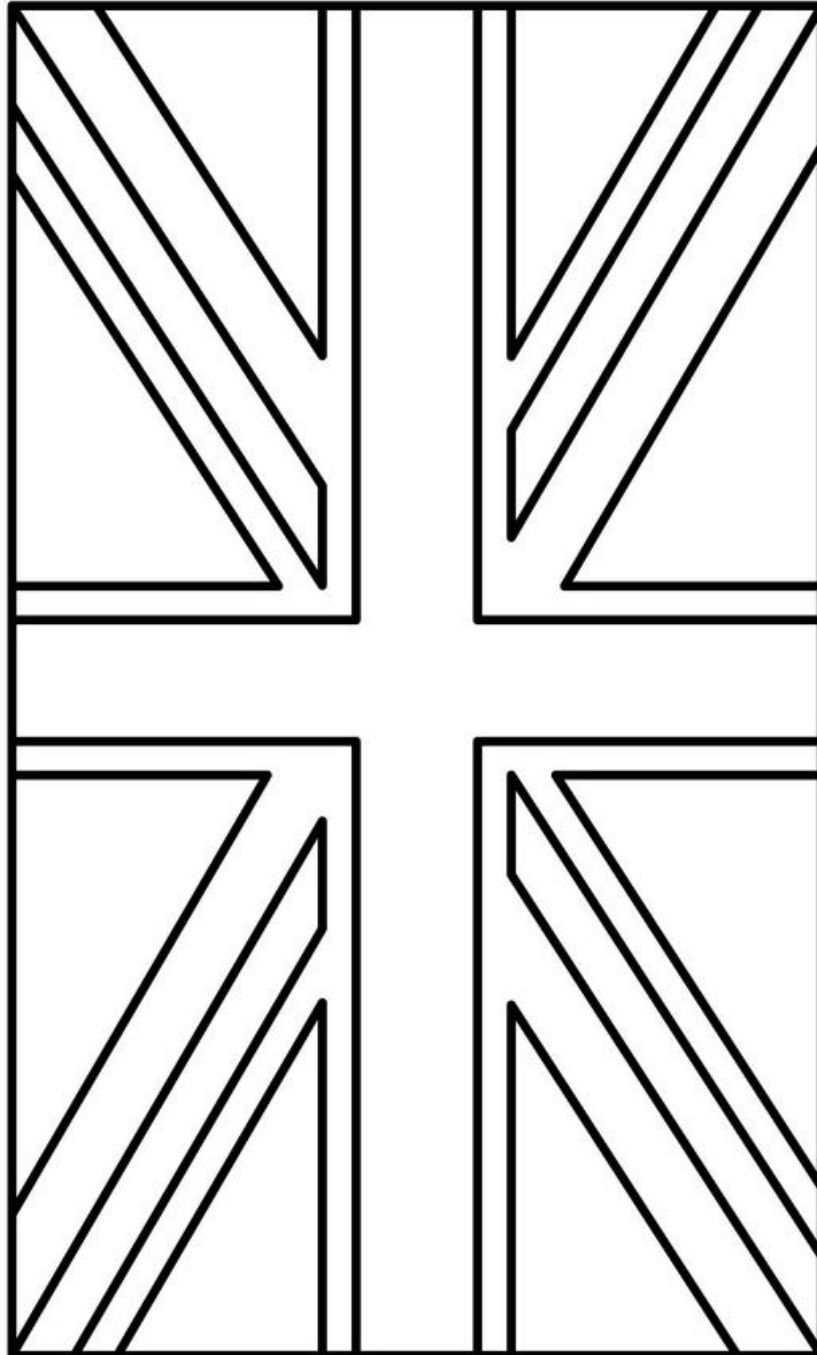


*VE Day 75 resources created by Andrew Powell-Thomas*

[www.andrewpowell-thomas.co.uk](http://www.andrewpowell-thomas.co.uk)



Create your own VE Day bunting by printing out copies of this Union flag, colouring them in, and joining them together with string!





## Understanding VE Day – reading comprehension



On the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allies, bringing the end of the Second World War in Europe after nearly six years of fighting. This is known as Victory in Europe Day – or VE Day for short.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill broadcast to the nation at 3pm on the radio that the war with Germany had been won. He then joined thousands on the streets of London and waved to crowds in Whitehall with his now famous 'V' for victory sign.



It was an emotional day that millions of people had been waiting for. Everyone was extremely happy that the fighting had stopped and there were big celebrations and street parties! Union flags hung from windows, people dressed in red, white and blue, and dancing and singing took place as communities came together to share in the moment. Huge crowds gathered outside Buckingham Palace in London and cheered when King George VI and his family came out onto the balcony.



Despite the celebrations, VE Day was also a moment of great sadness and reflection, as millions of people had lost their lives, loved ones and homes in the conflict, and the Second World War continued in Asia.



## **Understanding VE Day – with reading comprehension**

1: What is VE Day short for?

2: What did VE Day mark?

3: Who spoke to the nation to declare war with Germany was over?

4: Why did large crowds gather at Buckingham Palace in London?

5: How did people celebrate VE Day?

6: Despite this being the end of the war in Europe, why were some people sad?

7: Look at the street party photographs. Why do you think there are very few men in these photographs?



Look at this photograph of some children celebrating VE Day.



What differences can you spot between then and now?

How do you think you would celebrate VE Day today? Draw a picture.



## Design your own street party



Can you design your own street party to celebrate VE Day?

There are a lot of things to think about!

What table decorations would you use? What kind of food and drinks would there be? Will there be a dress code? What type of music will be playing? Will there be any party games?

Draw your street party below.

## War medals.



In the aftermath of VE Day, people of the British Commonwealth were awarded various medals to commemorate their service during the Second World War. The colour ribbons of each medal weren't just chosen at random – they each had a significance and were designed by King George VI himself!



### War Medal 1939–1945

Awarded to those who had served full-time in the Armed Forces or the Merchant Navy for at least 28 days during the Second World War.

The red, white and blue represent the British flag.

## War medals.

Using the word bank below, can you work out what the colours on these ribbons may have represented?

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Defence Medal</u></b></p> <p>Awarded to members of the Home Guard, the Civil Defence Services and other approved civilian services</p> <p>Green –</p> <p>Orange –</p> <p>Black -</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The 1939–1945 Star</u></b></p> <p>Awarded for periods of operational service overseas.</p> <p>Light blue –</p> <p>Red –</p> <p>Dark blue -</p>

Flames from the enemy attacks.	The Naval Forces and the Merchant Navy	Black-outs against air attacks.
The army.	The air force.	Britain's countryside.





## **Design your own medal.**

Can you design your own medal? What will it look like? What colours and designs will you use on the ribbon? What will they represent?



## Family history.

Speak to your parents and relatives. Was there someone in your family that fought in the Second World War? Find out about them. What did they do? Are there any photographs of them?

<u>Picture:</u>	<u>Name:</u>
	<u>Relation to you:</u>
	<u>Job:</u>
	<u>Where they worked:</u>
Draw any medals they were awarded.	<u>What they did:</u>



## Wartime recipe: Rock Cakes

With all the rationing, are you bored of eating the same food every day? Do you long for a tasty treat that will last for ages? Follow these simple instructions to find an easy yet delicious snack which you can make in no time!

*You will need:*

- Scales
- Sieve
- Knife, fork and a tablespoon
- Bowls
- Baking Tray, Oven and Oven glove!
- 8oz (200g) self-raising flour
- 3oz (75g) butter
- 3oz (75g) sugar
- 2oz (50g) mixture of currants, sultanas and mixed peel
- 1 egg
- 3tablespoons of milk
- A pinch of salt

*Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 6, 400 °F (200 °C).*

1. *Begin by collecting your ingredients and washing your hands.*
2. *Then, grease a shallow baking tray; making sure you cover the base and sides so nothing sticks.*
3. *Next, cut the butter into small cubes, place in a large bowl and slowly sift in the flour and salt.*
4. *Now, rub the butter, flour and salt between your fingertips until it looks like breadcrumbs.*
5. *After that, gradually pour in the sugar and fruit.*
6. *Carefully add the egg and briskly mix together with a fork.*  
*(You can gently pour in the milk but make sure you keep the mixture stiff.)*
7. *Arrange the mixture into even little balls (about the size of an egg) and place on your baking tray. You will be able to make about eight cakes.*
8. *Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. (After about 12 minutes your nose will become tickled by the delicious aroma!)*
9. *Finally, use an oven glove to carefully remove the baking tray from the oven and enjoy.*

Although they are delicious when served warm, you can store your Rock Cakes in an airtight container for up to a month, making them the perfect snack for an unexpected air raid!

## Arts & Crafts ideas:



Create your own medals!



Make a spitfire out of a peg and a few lolly sticks!



Use paper plates to make poppies.

### Other ideas to celebrate VE Day:

- Hold your own 'street party' at home.
- Find some war time recipes and cook.
- Dress up!
- Follow the hairstyles of the time.
- Find some music from the time and dance!
- Sing songs from 1945.
- Find out about what happened in your local area on VE Day.
- Write a newspaper report about what you did to celebrate VE Day 75.





**VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations**

# **STAY AT HOME STREET PARTY!**

**Friday 8th May 2020**

**Commemorate the end of WW2 by celebrating with  
your family & neighbours.**

**Decorate your house in red, white & blue and  
enjoy a picnic in your front garden.**

