

VE Day - 75 Years

The year 2020 marks 75 years since the original VE Day!

But what was VE day?

Here are some images of people celebrating the first VE Day.



Does anyone have any ideas what VE Day might be?

What is VE Day?

VE Day
Victory in Europe Day



Second World War

Britain had been at war since September 1939.
The war had caused great hardships for the entire country.



Cities, such as Coventry, London and Plymouth were badly bombed and many were killed. Buildings were destroyed and people were left homeless.



It was usually impossible for soldiers to visit home due to the war.



384,000 British soldiers were killed and many more were wounded.



Food was rationed; before the war, Britain imported lots of its food from abroad. With German submarines manning the seas, importing food was too risky.

The End

By the end of April 1945, the leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini and the leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, were dead. Germany was in ruins.

On 7th May, at 2.41 a.m., in Reims in France, Germany surrendered. This meant that the war in Europe was over.



The News Spreads

Before long, the exciting news spread that the war in Europe was over. People ran out on the streets to celebrate and church bells were rung to spread the news.

A stylized illustration of Winston Churchill, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, a red bow tie with white polka dots, and a black bowler hat. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green hills and a light sky.

In accordance with arrangements between the three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday.

VE Day

The following day was one of great celebration. Churchill made a speech in which he said: 'My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole.'

Communities had street parties and churches held services of thanksgiving.



VE Day 2020

To celebrate 75 years since the original VE Day, the May Day Bank Holiday has been moved for the second time in history.

Although it's usually on a Monday, this year, the May Day Bank Holiday will be on Friday 8th May to coincide with the anniversary of VE Day.

The last time the May Day Bank Holiday was moved was also for VE Day - to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 1995!

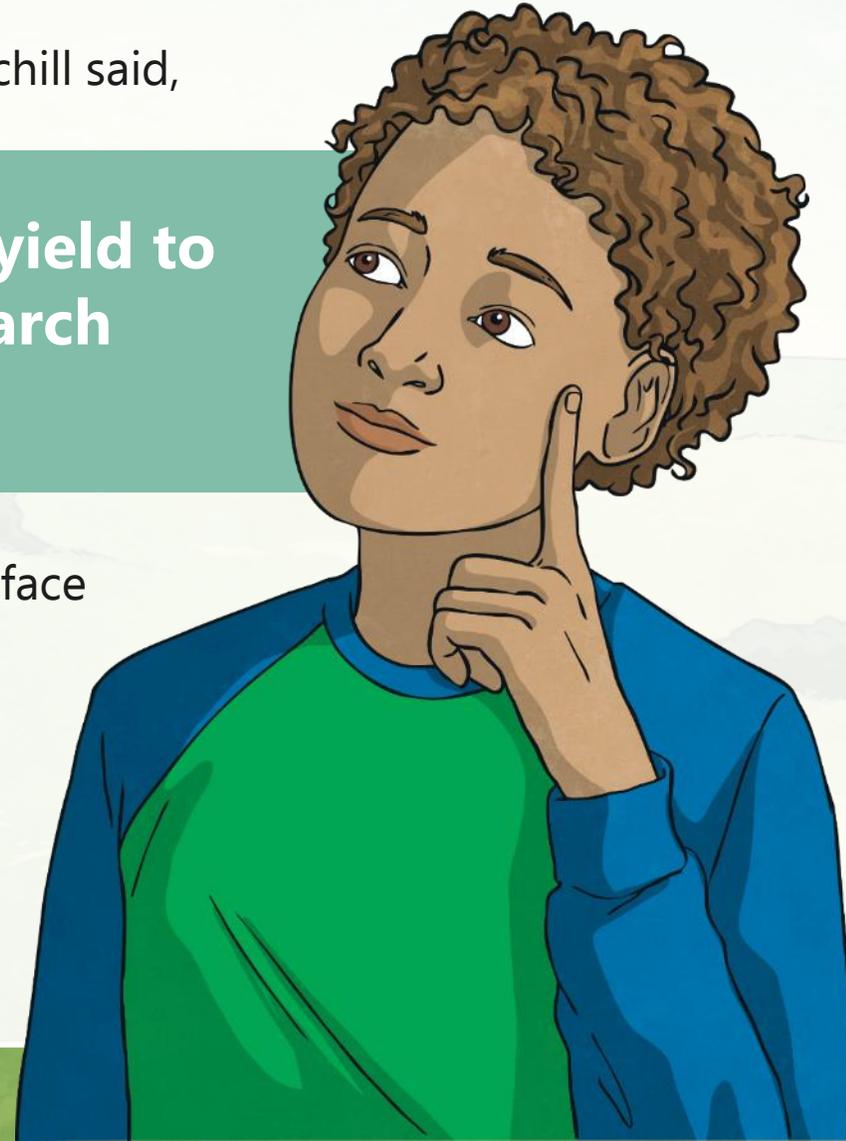


Time to Reflect

In his VE Day speech, Winston Churchill said,

“Do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straight forward.”

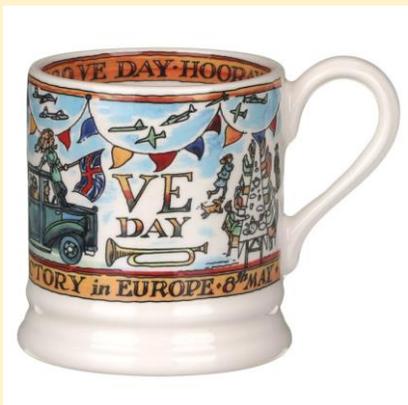
How can you keep going when you face difficult or worrying times?





VE Day Creative Activities

We have put together some creative ideas for you to mark this special day. We would like you to try at least one of the creative tasks but you can of course try as many as you would like as well as having a go at the word searches or even build your own spitfire plane.



VE Day Teacup Design

Victory in Europe (VE) Day took place on 8th May 1945. It marked the end of the Second World War in Europe.

VE Day was commemorated in many ways, including the production of special cups.



- Do you recognise the people on the cup? Who are they?
- Why is there a flag on the cup?
- What do you think the slogan on the cup means?
- Why do you think commemorative cups like this were made?

We would like you to design your own VE Day teacup to celebrate the 75th Anniversary.

You could include

- Flags
- Bunting
- Important figures like Winston Churchill

You should make it bright, colourful and eye catching. It should be a celebration of the day.



Design a VE Day Medal

This medal celebrated the end of the First World War and was given to soldiers who had fought in active theatres of the war. It was a symbol of **great pride** but its design was also highly **symbolic**.

A rainbow symbolises the calm after the storm.

The years of the First World War – 1914-18



The colours are the combined colours of the Allied nations with red at the centre.

Winged figure is 'Victory'.

Bronze medal, not too expensive after the war, but long lasting.



We would like you to design a VE Day Medal to give to the British soldiers who served in the Second World War.

You can design any shape or size medal but it should include:

- The years of the war (1939-1945)
- A symbol of victory

You should annotate your design explaining the choices you have made.



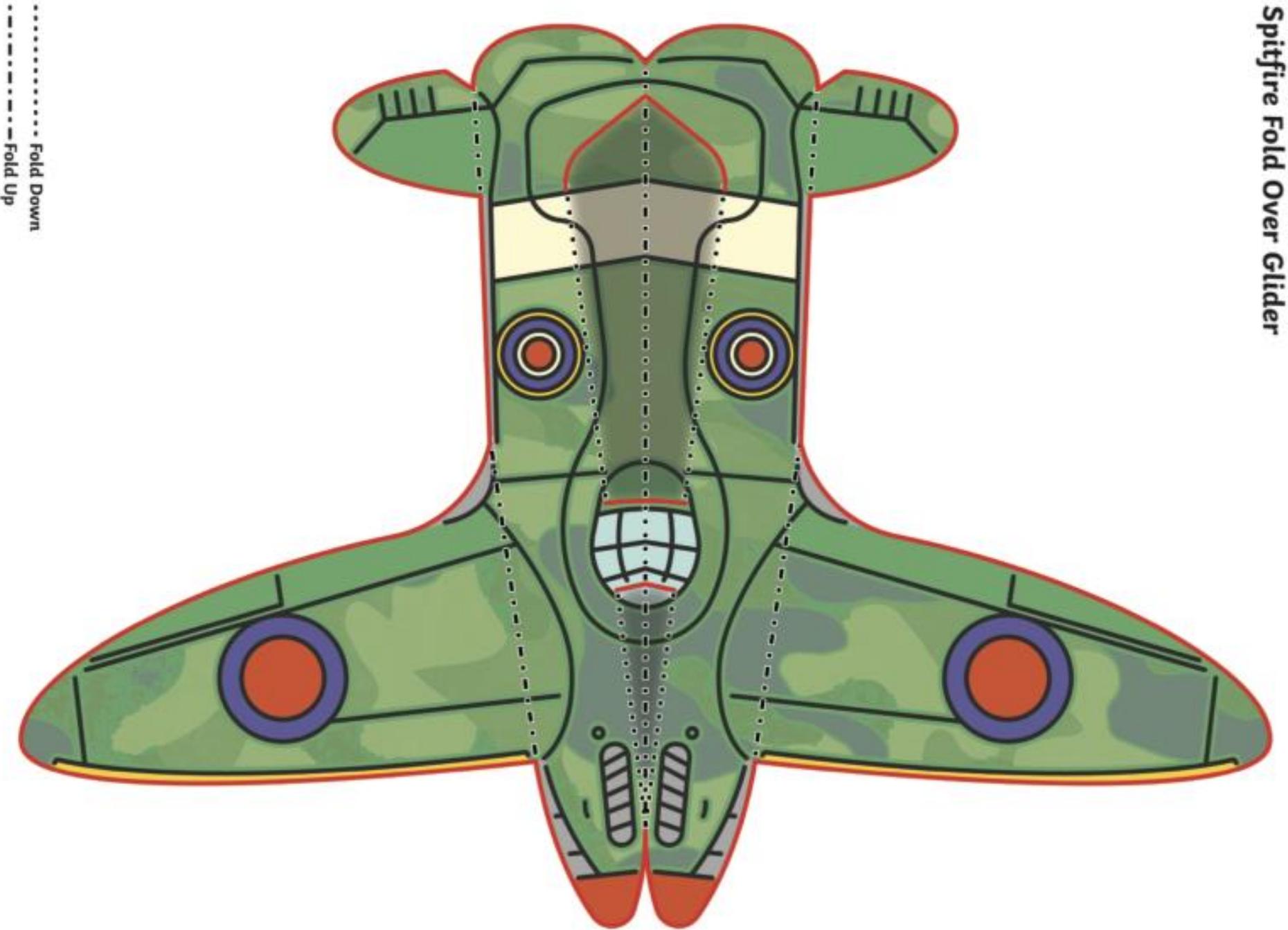
Bunting was used to decorate the sheets on VE Day as part of street parties.

Can you design some bunting to use in a street party celebration?

It should be:

- Brightly coloured
- Eye catching

It could also include flags in your design.



Here is a template of a spitfire plane.

If you can, print out the template and create your own spitfire by folding along the dotted lines.

If you can't print out the template, then can you draw your own, adding the dotted lines to fold.

The background features a cartoon illustration of a military aircraft, possibly a Spitfire, with the text 'VE Day' prominently displayed at the top. The aircraft has a roundel insignia and the number 'PV270' on its side. On the left and right sides, there are partial illustrations of soldiers in military uniforms. The entire scene is set against a light blue sky with white clouds.

VE Day

v i c t o r y v b d e l
f c e e v b h j n f u i
f h l s w f v h j b r b
i v e a u h j n m c o e
g o b p a r v r v b p r
h p r f v b r a g b e a
t r a a v b n e e v b t
i g t r a v b h n b n i
n f e s t i v a l d o o
g p v b n y v e f v e n
a f v n j k l a o a n r
g e r m a n y v b q d k

Here is a VE Day word search for a little bit of fun! See how many of the below words you can find.

- Victory
- Europe
- Liberation
- End
- Surrender
- Fighting
- Party
- Festival
- Germany
- Celebrate



Find some facts out about VE day (pick a link you want to look at)

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

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/ve-day>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-ve-day>

Try a VE day activity:

<http://farnboroughprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/VE-Day-Kids-2020.pdf>