

## 1. INTRODUCTION

8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 was the date when Britain and its allies celebrated the defeat of Nazi Germany after six years and millions of lives lost in war. This day became known as **Victory in Europe (VE) Day**. It was the end of the Second World War in Europe, although fighting continued in other parts of the world.

It was on this date that great celebrations took place across Europe and North America: in London huge crowds of more than a million people gathered in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI appeared on the balcony to cheering crowds. Amongst the crowds, Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II) and her sister, Princess Margaret, blended in anonymously, experiencing the celebrations for themselves.

By completing the activities on this sheet, you can learn more about the events of Second World War and why people still celebrate VE Day.

## 2. CELEBRATIONS ON VE DAY

How did people in Britain celebrate VE Day in 1945?

- Watch this video clip on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtzrA2VfV7E>
- Make list of all the different ways that people are celebrating in the video.
- Take it further by writing a short report for the Sutton Guardian describing the celebrations.



**V-E DAY 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY • MAY 8**



## 3. THE GRAND ALLIANCE

Which countries worked together to beat Nazi Germany?

Britain did not defeat Nazi Germany alone. Three countries came together as allies and worked together to win the war. You can see their flags here. For each flag, research and write down:

- The name of the country
- The name of their leader in World War II
- How many people from each country were killed during World War II



- Take it further by writing a short biography of each of the three leaders. Try to include four interesting key facts about each leader.

## 4. THE AXIS POWERS

Which countries was Britain fighting against?

Britain's enemies in World War II were known as **the Axis Powers**. You can see their flags here. For each flag, research and write down:

- The name of the country
- The name of their leader in World War II
- The names of any countries which they invaded during World War II.



- Take it further by writing a short biography of each of the three leaders. Try to include four interesting key facts about each leader.

## 5. KEY EVENTS OF WW2

What were the key moments in World War II?

Draw a timeline like the one below.

1939    1940    1941    1942    1943    1944    1945

- Find out when these events happened and put them on your timeline.

a.	D-Day
b.	Operation Barbarossa
c.	Germany invades Poland
d.	VE Day
e.	The attack on Pearl Harbour
f.	The Battle of Britain
g.	The surrender of France
h.	The Battle of Stalingrad
i.	Hitler commits suicide

- Take it further by writing a short description of each event and why it was so important.

## 6. LIFE IN BRITAIN DURING WW2

How did World War II affect the lives of British people?

On VE Day, many British people were pleased because the war against Germany had made their lives difficult.

Look at the three problems which people in Britain faced during World War II. Do some of research on each one and make a spiderdiagram showing what you have found out.



Rationing

Air raids

Evacuation

## 7. QUIZ SOMEONE YOU KNOW

What do your family know about VE Day?

Using what you have learned today, write a short quiz with ten multiple choice questions. Test someone in your family.