

Home Learning – English task break down

Monday:

VE Day Fact File – Comprehension

First, read through the text. It is two pages long. Work through the comprehension questions (following pages). Write your answers in your book in full sentences.

When you have finished, check that every sentence is punctuated correctly and then use the answers (at the end of the document) to check your work.

What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day, and is celebrated on 8th May. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of the fighting in Europe.



How did it happen?

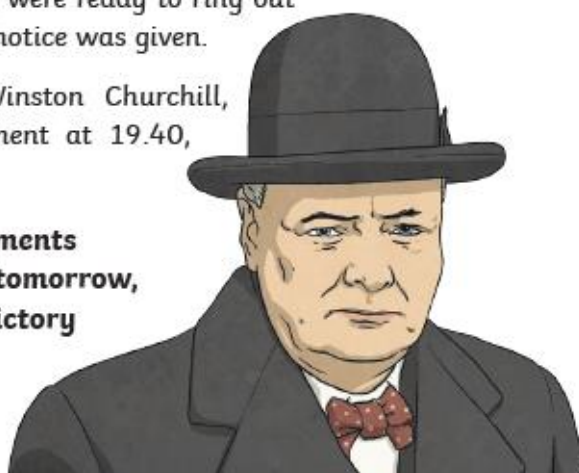
In April 1945, Hitler died. This meant that the Germans had to surrender their part in the Second World War to the Western armies. The German President of the Third Reich (the German army), gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American army Head Quarters in France. Here, Jodl surrendered to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news! Bell ringers in churches around the country, were ready to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.

The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, made the following announcement at 19.40, 7th May.

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



The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



The three great powers were:

- Great Britain
- Soviet Union (Russia)
- France

Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They had street parties, neighbours shared food, and listened to the radio news programmes.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked in the huge crowds in London!

Churchill told the crowds, "This is your victory!"

The End of the VE Day

Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time in six years since the war began, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of peace, above St Paul's Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.



Although everyone was pleased the war in Europe had come to an end, many people would have also felt sad, for the family and friends who had been killed.

Questions on next page.

1. What does 'VE' stand for?
2. What had happened for VE day to be announced?
3. How would people know that there was good news?
4. Name two effects that was in Europe had had on the British people.
5. Who was Winston Churchill?
6. Name the three 'Great Powers'.
7. Why would some people have felt sad on VE Day?
8. What unusual thing did the princesses do on that day?
9. How was it shown in London that people were happy?

Tuesday:

Read the Picture

Look at the following picture and then answer the questions using full sentences in your workbook. Please use full sentences (including capital letters and full stops).

This could be done through discussion, rather than as a written activity.



1. Who is this poster showing?
2. Choose one word to describe the person in the picture.
3. Who do you think the poster is for? Who would see it?
4. Why do you think the artist chose the word 'we'?
5. What jobs might she have to do now that the men have gone to war?

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**.



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



Your task is to create a medal for British soldiers who served in the Second World War that is just as symbolic and creative.

Your medal can be any shape or size but you must have considered the metal and ribbon choices.

You must include:

- The years of the war (1939-45)
- The colours of the Allies
- A symbol to signify the war and the soldier's sacrifice and victory
- A reference to the many theatres of the fighting (Europe, Africa, Asia, Air, Sea, Land)
- Annotations to explain your choices

Wednesday

Read the Picture:

Look at the following picture and then answer the questions using full sentences in your workbook. Please use full sentences (including capital letters and full stops).

This could be done through discussion, rather than as a written activity.



1. Explain how you know the writer is a child?
2. What type of text is this? How do you know?
3. Where do you think the author is? Who do you think she is?
4. How do you think she feels about being away from home?

Explain why using evidence from the text.

Correct the text:

You may have noticed some mistakes in the letter that we read from Sheila. I would like you to re-write the letter, correct any missing punctuation and tweaking any sentences that don't quite sound right. If you are feeling very creative, you might like to edit and improve the letter as you go.

This is one of your options for **the Showbie Assignment** this week.

The letter should begin like this:

**Infants School
Ghosall, Stafford**

My Dear Mum and Dad,

I hope....

Thursday

VE Day thoughts:

This is your chance to show me what you have learnt and what you think about VE Day. Here are three questions. You can present this in any way you like. You could create a poster, write it as a non-fiction text with subheadings or put each question in a bubble and create a mind map!

What is remembered on VE Day?

Why do you think it is important to celebrate and recognise VE Day?

How do you think VE Day should be celebrated?

Friday

VE Day prayers:

Below are three prayers. If you would like to, you could write your own prayer. You could send a photo of the prayer, a voice note or even a video clip of you reading it aloud to me. This is one of your options for **the Showbie Assignment** this week.

Almighty and eternal God,
Hear our prayers and protect our brave troops who
sacrifice themselves to protect us.
Bless our fallen soldiers and those who are still
working towards peace and justice in this world.
I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.



Dear Father,
We pray today for the men, women and
children all over the world who have
died in wars. We pray, too, for those
who face war today and hope they will
soon be able to live in peace.
Amen.

Comprehension question answers (Monday):

The answers I have given are in short form. Children should be encouraged to use full sentence answers.

1. Victory in Europe.
2. The Germans had surrendered their part in the Second World War.
3. Church bells would ring across the country.
4. About two and a half million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people had been killed, millions of lives had been torn apart.
5. The British Prime Minister
6. Great Britain, the Soviet Union and France.
7. People would have remembered their losses.
8. The princesses joined the crowds celebrating in the streets of London.
9. The lights were lit at Buckingham palace and the searchlights above St. Pauls were used to create a V sign for peace.