



VE DAY 8th May

1945 – What was it?

Hover over
sound icon
and press play



The end of war

On the previous slide when you clicked on the sound icon you heard Vera Lynn singing, 'We'll Meet Again'. This was a song that had kept spirits raised during World War 2 in the fight against Nazi Germany.

On 7 May 1945 the formal act of military surrender was signed by Germany, ending the war in Europe. The next day celebrations broke out all over the world to mark Victory in Europe or VE Day. In Britain, Churchill marked the occasion by declaring 8 May a public holiday. People held parties, danced and sang in the streets. Huge crowds gathered in London, both on Whitehall to hear Churchill speak and outside Buckingham Palace where King George VI and the Royal Family appeared on the balcony.

(Taken from Imperial War Museum Website)



What had war been like? 1939- 1945

- ▶ Adolf Hitler who had been the leader of Germany had created destruction in Europe. Many people had suffered as a result of bombings known as the Blitz. People in Britain had evacuated their children from the cities to the countryside. The people of Whitland and St Clears took children into their homes, looking after them and keeping them safe from the bombing raids in places like Swansea, London and Coventry. People had to follow government advice as part of their everyday lives, which is something we are having to do now. People in the Second World War had to follow orders given such as food rationing, where people had ration books for food and campaigns such as Dr Carrot and Potato Pete, encouraging people to 'Dig for Victory' and grow their own food. There are some images on the next few slides showing some of what people went through.

Hitler bombed Britain on a nightly basis. People carried on with normal life as far as possible. What can you see in these pictures to show that?

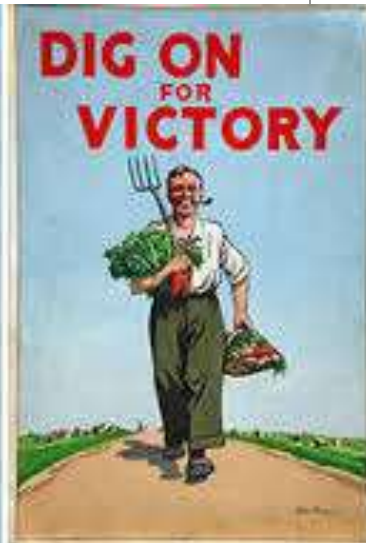


Wartime posters
issued by the
government

People were
instructed to comply
with evacuation rules



People got used to food rationing





Prime Minister Winston Churchill spoke to the crowds
on VE Day



[Click to listen to the speech](#)



People celebrated in London. Churchill addresses the crowd from the Ministry of Health Balcony



People danced in the streets



Two British sailors and their girlfriends wading in Trafalgar Square fountains in London



The pictures from the last 4 slides are from the records held by the Imperial War Museum, London.

- ▶ <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-photos-of-ve-day-celebrations>
- ▶ Click on the link above to see more pictures and find out more about the young people wading in the fountain



People had street parties all around Britain



TASKS



- ▶ Complete the VE Day Photo Detectives activity in Google docs
- ▶ Choose to complete **2 or more** of the following activities:
- ▶ 1) Make your own VE day bunting. It could be painted on paper or made from fabric. It is basically the British flag in triangles or squares fastened together with string or ribbon. Hang it in your window. Take a picture of it and put it onto Google classroom.
- ▶ 2) Create a VE day street party menu. Search what foods were rationed and only use those for your menu. Create a menu board from paper or cardboard, decorate it with flags, add colour. If it is possible, make a part of your menu for the people that you live with. Tell your History teachers about what you did. Take a picture of your menu and food, if you managed to make it. Check out the war time recipes booklet on Google classroom for more ideas.
- ▶ 3) Make a front page of a newspaper for VE day. Include parts of Churchill's speech, bunting, street party photographs. Get creative!
- ▶ 4) If the people you live with are gardeners and it is possible, ask nicely for a pot, some compost and a few vegetable seeds such as radish or carrots (they aren't too difficult to grow) and 'Dig for Victory.' We could see what you managed to grow at a later date.