

# VE day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Information PowerPoint



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# 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 7<sup>th</sup> May, at 2.41 a.m., in Reims in France, Germany surrendered. This meant that the war in Europe was over.



# Celebrations

As news of the surrender spread, the war-weary British began to rejoice straight away. During the previous six years, half a million homes had been destroyed, thousands of civilians had been killed and many millions of lives disrupted, in Britain alone.

The news of a surrender was what everyone needed to hear.




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People ran out on to the streets, hanging bunting and banners and dancing. People organised impromptu street parties, shared rationed food with the neighbours and listened to the wireless for updates.



# 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.



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.

# Victory in Europe



This photograph shows Churchill waving to crowds in Whitehall, London, on the day he broadcast to the nation that the war with Germany had been won, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945.



# Britain's Resolve and Strength

On VE Day, everyone, both in London and at home sitting by their wireless sets, wanted to hear just one man: Winston Churchill. At 3pm the Prime Minister broadcast to the nation. He praised the British spirit and reminded them that this was a victory of the great British nation as a whole. He also reminded them that the war continued against the Japanese, but 'we can all take a night off today'.



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Crowds gathered in Trafalgar Square and up The Mall, waiting for Winston Churchill and King George VI to make an appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

# 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.





# A memorable night

Later that evening, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret slipped out of Buckingham Palace to experience the celebrations for themselves. They stood amongst the joyful crowds below the royal balcony.

HM Queen Elizabeth II recalled the event:

"... my sister and I realised we couldn't see what the crowds were enjoying ... so we asked my parents if we could go out and see for ourselves ... After crossing Green Park we stood outside and shouted, 'We want the King', and were successful in seeing my parents on the balcony. I think it was one of the most memorable nights of my life."

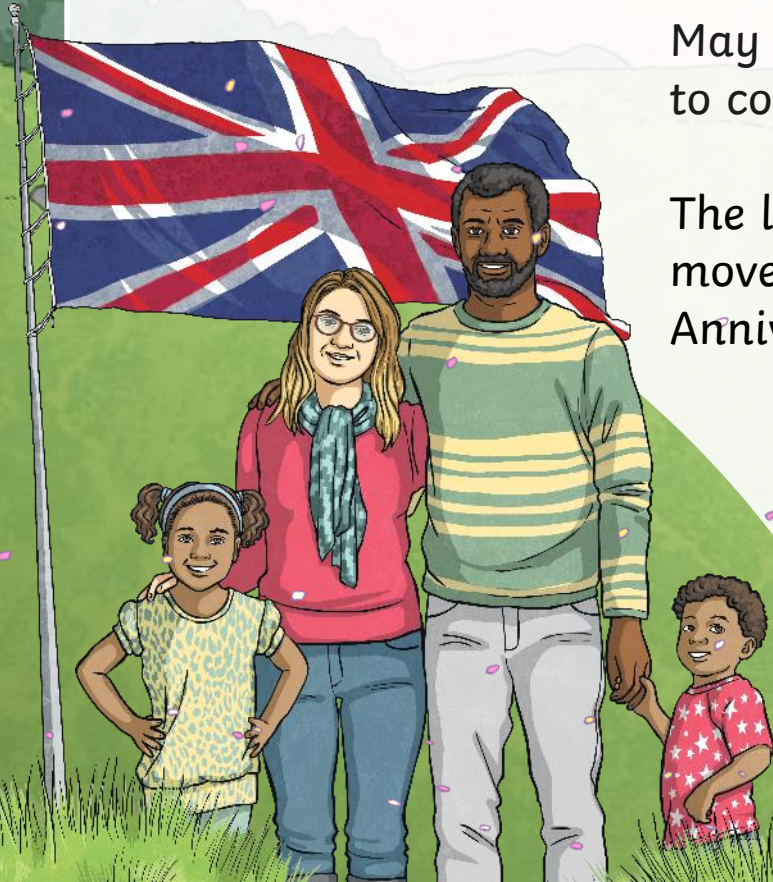


# VE Day 2020

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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?

