



75th Anniversary of VE Day

On 8th May 2020, it will be the 75th anniversary of the first VE Day in 1945. VE Day is short for Victory in Europe Day. The day is marked to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe. People also remember the bravery and hardships of those who lived during the time as well as the soldiers who fought.

Victory in Europe

On 7th May 1945, Germany **surrendered** and agreed to end the war. The next day was Tuesday 8th May and this became a day of celebration called Victory in Europe Day. It marked the end of many hard years of war so people were overjoyed.

How Did People Celebrate the First VE Day?

- People gathered in the streets. They hung bunting and banners.
- Everyone made food to share with each other at street parties. They sang songs, danced and waved flags.
- People even wore red, white and blue which are the colours of the British flag.
- The capital city became very busy on VE day. Anyone who could get to London did so. They watched parades and celebrated together. Crowds of people filled Trafalgar Square. Others waited outside Buckingham Palace to see the King appear.



- Some people believe that Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret even slipped out of Buckingham Palace to join in with the celebrations in London.
- At 3 o'clock, people listened to the Prime Minister on the wireless. Winston Churchill said, "My dear friends, this is your hour. It's a victory of the great British nation."
- Church bells rang across the entire country to share the good news.
- People also set off fireworks and lit bonfires.

Did You Know...?

The war may have been over in Europe but it continued in other parts of the world for a number of months until September 1945.



Glossary

surrendered: Gave up fighting against the enemy.

Questions

1. Fill in the missing words:

**On 8th May 2020, it will be the 75th _____ of the
_____ VE Day in 1945.**

2. What do we remember on VE Day each year? Tick one.

- ☐ the end of the First World War in Europe
- ☐ the end of the Second World War in Europe
- ☐ the end of the Third World War in Europe

3. What happened on 7th May 1945?

4. Which of these colours did people wear on VE Day? Tick **two**.

- ☐ red
- ☐ green
- ☐ white

5. What is a wireless?

6. Describe **two** ways that people celebrated on the first VE Day.
