



VE
DAY
75:
FRIDAY
8TH
MAY

VE DAY 75 EVENTS: FRIDAY 8TH

JUST A FEW TO LOOK OUT FOR...

- 11AM: 2 MINUTE SILENCE
- 2.45PM: BBC WILL BROADCAST WINSTON CHURCHILL'S VICTORY SPEECH
- 8PM: VE DAY 75: THE PEOPLE'S CELEBRATION (BBC)
- 9PM: THE QUEEN - SPECIAL BROADCAST TO THE NATION



VE DAY AT EHS: THE VE DAY 75 CHALLENGE!



Even though we're not at school right now, nothing could stop us celebrating VE Day 75 at EHS. With that in mind, the History Department have organised the VE Day 75 Challenge! This challenge is open to all pupils in all year groups. See page 8 of this document for instructions on entering.

What is the VE Day 75 Challenge?

Originally, we had grand ideas about celebrating VE Day by Lindy Hopping our way down to the field and having our own 1940s style picnic. Whilst sadly we can't do that anymore, we thought that we would organise a challenge that lets you play to your strengths whilst hopefully having a lot of fun in the process. With that in mind, your job (should you wish to partake) is to research **any aspect of VE Day** that interests you, and produce **any kind of end product** that you wish which shows off your new found VE Day related knowledge! Carry on reading for some subject-related inspiration...





Art and Design

- Design your own commemoration of VE Day. This can be done in any medium. An example from the time can be found on this page. Miss Mullett can't wait to see your entries!

Music and Dance

- The 1930s and 40s was the golden age of big band swing music. Why not look up the following musicians and give them a listen? See if you can create your own VE Day playlist, or play some of the tunes for yourself.
- A famous song by each is behind the link, but remember to keep exploring! [Glen Miller](#), [Benny Goodman](#), [Louis Armstrong](#), [Ella Fitzgerald](#), [Vera Lynn](#)
- Swing-era music produced its own dance styles, and you can watch a mixture of them [here](#). Some of the most famous include [lindy hop](#), the jitterbug, and solo jazz dancing, and there are a wealth of moves you can look up on YouTube. Beginners might want to start with the classic solo jazz routine the Shim Sham – taught [here](#) by the lindy hop legend Frankie Manning!

English

- Short story competition. If you wanted it to be a 'First Line' story, you could begin with:
 - *'...the German war is therefore at an end', I heard him say....*
- Devise a poem for VE Day. The form and meter is up to you!



Food and Nutrition

- Try your hand at some VE-Day cooking, with the following example recipes (though look up others if you wish! This website is very good:
<https://the1940sexperiment.com/100-wartime-recipes/>)
 - <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome/recipes/wartime-carrot-cake> – **wartime carrot cake**
 - <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/ve-day-pack.pdf> – **party pack includes recipes for carrot scones, cheese and marmite swirls, lemonade**
 - http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/ww2_recipes2.pdf – **wartime chocolate cake**
- You could bake to celebrate VE Day!
 - Could be sweet or savoury
 - Could be inspired by any European country involved in the conflict, or VE Day victors themselves.
- Put together a VE-Day menu for a street party.
- Mrs Syer can't wait to judge your creations!





History

- Research / ask your family about their experiences of the Second World War and VE Day.
- Are there any figures or individuals from WW2 who interest you? Research further into them and think of a fun way to present your findings!
- Essay competition questions:
 - Why did Germany lose the Second World War?
 - What was life in the Second World War like in a) Great Britain (or a city or town like Birmingham); or b) any other country of your choice?

Note – some of you may be interested in entering some prestigious nationwide competitions run by the Historical Association. Read the information on the link and ask your History teacher for more details if you would like to enter!

1. Write your own historical fiction - There are prizes in every year group, and the story does not need to be about VE Day or the Second World War. The deadline is Friday 26th June 2020.
2. Young Historian Awards – There are prizes in every key stage on aspects of the Second World War. The deadline is Monday 20th July 2020.

Religion and Philosophy

- How should we remember and reflect on the Second World War and VE Day? You can refer to any religious or philosophical tradition.



STEM subjects

- Research and put together a project on an invention from the Second World War. This can take any form you want, but remember to include: what life was like before this invention? How was it invented? How did it work? What were its effects? How has it changed between the Second World War and the present day?
- How did technological developments during the war lead to man being able to send men to the moon and begin space exploration?
- Interested in the Enigma Code?
 - Research how the enigma code paved the way for advancements in modern computing.
 - Love coding and PRINGLES?! Follow [this website here](#) to make your own Enigma machine using Pringles tubes! Mrs Lambert can't wait to see!



Textiles and Fashion

- Can you recreate the look of 1945? Have a read of the following good introductions and see how close you can get! Have a look [here](#) and [here](#) for inspiration.
- [Here](#) is a link to the IWM's page on 'Make do and Mend'.
- Since clothes were rationed during the Second World War, everyone tried to 'make do and mend' with their old clothes. So if you have any old clothes that you think you might throw away, see if you can repair them, or, even better, turn them into a new or different item of clothing! Photograph the 'before' and 'after' of your handiwork! Mrs Mooney would be so proud.



Geography

Love maps? Miss Massey does too!

- How about taking a look at the map of Europe pre- and post- WW2? How has it changed? Why did it change? What were the consequences of such changes?
 - Produce your own versions to demonstrate the changes!

MFL

Continuing down the theme of countries, Mrs Cardellino thought you could look into the following:

- How did people living in France, Germany, and other occupied countries resist the Nazis?
 - Possible ideas to start off your research:
 - The French Resistance
 - The White Rose Movement
- Was VE Day celebrated in a different way in France, Germany, and other European countries? Why don't you find out!
 - Were their celebratory cakes similar or different?



Classics

Try learning Latin 1940s style, where the boys (yes, sadly, only boys at this time) would learn their Latin texts off by heart. Learning things by rote is a lost art these days! Here is a couple of our suggestions for you to recite.

Try this two lines love poem, about a man who is in love with a woman who keeps breaking his heart. Catullus, Love Poetry, Poem 85:

*I hate and I love, perhaps you ask why I do this,
I do not know, but it is happening and I am being tortured.*

Or, attempt something a bit longer to learn, like this Homeric Hymn to Hercules, sung by the ancient Greeks to celebrate heroism and great deeds

Homeric Hymn to Heracles the Lion Hearted:

*Heracles, Zeus' son, I will celebrate, who, greatest and best
of those on earth, was born in Thebes' beautiful places,
Alcmene having slept with the black-clouded son of Cronus:
At one time, by lands and seas impossible to count,
He wandered, sent away by Lord Eurystheus,
Many things he did that were reckless, many things he suffered:
Now, however, in the beautiful abode of snowy Olympus
He dwells, enjoying himself with beautiful-ankled Hebe.
Farewell, lord, Zeus's son: grant both excellence and happiness.*



INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION!

The deadline for entries to be submitted is **4pm on Friday 5th June, 2020. The challenge is open to any pupil in any year group should they wish to join in. Staff are also welcome to enter!**

Please email evidence (word document, image etc.) to Miss Glover (glovers@edgbastonhigh.co.uk) by the above date. If we are back in school before then, and a hard copy can be presented, then please feel free to hand something physically in!

There will be prizes available for:

- The best entry for each subject area (as well as a miscellaneous category if you choose to do something different!)
- An overall winner.

Information about when prizes will be awarded will be shared with you at a later date.

We can't wait to see your entries!

GOOD LUCK!