



VE Day

Home Learning Pack

Included in this pack:

- Newspaper reading practice:
Year 3/4 The War is Over!
Year 5/6 The Nation Celebrates
- Newspaper writing task (planning sheet and newspaper writing template)
- Design a medal activity (PowerPoint, medal worksheet and writing paper)
- Bunting and flags
- Daily diary

This home learning pack is designed for children in years 3–6 (ages 8–11) to complete, with some adult support where possible, over a week. It contains fun, engaging opportunities to develop and practise reading and writing skills that can be completed within a child's home environment, based around the topic of 'VE Day'. Activity sheets are provided – but if you do not have access to a printer, all activities could be completed using any paper or writing books that you have at home.

For teachers' reference, the pack covers these key curricular skills:

Reading

- to apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet;
- to check that a text makes sense to them, answering questions including using inference.

Writing

- to compose and rehearse sentences orally before writing; write non-fiction (newspaper recounts);
- to identify the audience and purpose for writing; to select appropriate grammar and vocabulary (years 5 / 6).
- year 2, to write for different purposes (a diary).

History

- to study an aspect of British history (World War II).

A week's worth of activities are described on the next pages, with helpful information for adults explaining how to use these resources with your child. They are designed to be as fun, practical and creative as possible – nurturing children's natural curiosity, developing their literacy skills, and keeping learning lively!

Activities

Newspaper reading practice Year 3/4: The War Is Over! Year 5/6: The Nation Celebrates

Ask your child to read the **newspaper article** relevant for their age group, and discuss what it is about. Ask them to identify any words that they are unsure of and find out the meanings of these.

Your child should then answer the **questions** about the text, referring back to the newspaper article to help them where needed. Discuss the features of newspaper articles, which will help them in the writing task that comes next.

Newspaper writing task

Reread the newspaper articles in the reading practice tasks.

Discuss with your child any significant events that they can remember; this could be a family trip, school or national event. Look at the **newspaper planning sheet** and talk about the sections. Discuss what is needed for the headline, byline and hook paragraph using information on the plan. Your child should then use the newspaper planning sheet to plan a newspaper recount about that event.

Once the planning is complete, your child should use the **newspaper writing template** to write their article. Alternatively, they could use a computer to create their own newspaper template.

Design a medal activity

Using the **PowerPoint**, read the information about WWII and VE Day with your child so that they understand what is being remembered and celebrated. Read the information about war medals and look at the examples of war medals on the PowerPoint slides from World War II. Talk about the questions on the slides.

Your child can then design a war medal for a member of the army, navy or air force returning home after World War II. They could use the paper **worksheet** or make their own medal using fabric, cardboard or anything else you have at home. The final task is to write a letter to a serviceman or woman, thanking them for their bravery, using the **writing paper** included.

Bunting and flags

Use the **bunting and flag templates** to help decorate your home for VE Day! To make them, you will need: colouring pens or pencils; glue, sticky tape or staples; a stick or lolly stick; and string or wool.

Daily diary

The **diary template** provided could be printed out and completed daily, giving your child an opportunity to reflect on what they have done and how they are feeling each day.

Activities

Other activities for children to try

- Plan your own celebration for VE Day. Perhaps you could have a special lunch and decorate your house or garden with your bunting and flags.
- Research what life was like in 1945 in Britain. What did people wear? What did they eat? What music did they listen to?
- Research World War II in more detail following your child's interests. They could look at rationing, evacuation, Battle of Britain, World War II planes or the armed services.