

# Be an #Excellent Historian

What could you do this week to improve your historical knowledge and understanding?

## Watch



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

BBC Video explains what VE Day is and how it came about.

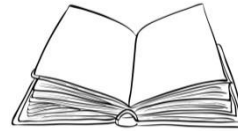
<https://www.edarabia.com/ve-day/>

This week in the news 1945

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AC2vzAA5N8>

VE Day in 1945 – in colour

## Read



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749>

CBBC website giving information and pictures

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-ve-day>

Imperial War Museum VE information

## Listen



<https://soundcloud.com/now-press-play/ww2>

A taster of being an evacuee during WW2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/history-ks2-world-war-2-clips-index/zjc8cqt>

The most popular wartime songs

### Key Questions to Explore

- What does VE mean?
- What brought about VE Day? (How did it happen and who made it happen?)
- How did people celebrate VE Day around the world?
- Did VE Day mean WWII was over?
- Was everybody happy on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 – can you explain your understanding.
- Why do you think people still celebrate VE day 75 years on? Is it important and why?

### Activities

Choose one or more activities to demonstrate your understanding and celebrate 75 years on from VE Day

- Organise your own **VE Day party** at home decorate with homemade bunting and flags, cook traditional recipes, learn to dance and listen to music of the day (see ideas attached)
- Get arty! You could produce your own victory inspired artwork look at some of the greats such as LS Lowry here <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/ve-day-84993>
- Write a newspaper article from the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. Imagine you were reporting at the time. What would the atmosphere be like – what were the facts!


## VE DAY - 75 Years On



# VE Day Party Ideas

In May 1945 Germany surrendered to the Allies and, after six long years of fighting, the war in Europe came to an end. Millions of people up and down the country greeted the news with bonfires, bunting, parades and parties, and there was singing and dancing in the streets. Due to our current situation we're not able to party together but these ideas might help you recreate your own VE Day celebration at your home or in your garden this bank holiday – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

1940s MUSIC AND DANCE



## SING-ALONG

**LAMBETH WALK**

Any time you're Lambeth way  
Any evening, any day.  
You'll find us all,  
Doing the Lambeth Walk - oi!

Every little Lambeth gal,  
With her little Lambeth pal.  
You'll find 'em all  
Doin' the Lambeth Walk - oi!

Everything free and easy,  
Do as you darn well pleasey.  
Why don't you make your way there  
Go there, stay there.

Once you get down Lambeth way.  
Every evening, every day,  
You'll find yourself  
Doin' the Lambeth Walk - oi!

**WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER**


There'll be bluebirds over,  
The white cliffs of Dover,  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.

There'll be love and laughter,  
And peace ever after,  
Tomorrow when the world is free.

The shepherd will tend his sheep,  
The valley will bloom again.  
And Jimmy will go to sleep,  
In his own little room again.

There'll be blue birds over,  
The white cliffs of Dover,  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

HOW TO DANCE THE LINDY HOP



## SWING

The 'Lindy Hop' is a swing dance that originated in New York in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It gained popularity in the UK in the 1940s thanks to the American servicemen stationed here during the Second World War.

**THE SWING OUT**

The Swing Out is a cornerstone Lindy Hop move. It's danced in 8-counts and is a basic building block for other dance steps.


**STEP 1**  
Rock step - take a step back with your full weight, then transfer the weight to your front foot while keeping it in place.

**STEP 2**  
Triple step - take a step to your side. Bring your feet together. Take another step to your side.

**STEP 3**  
Walk

**STEP 4**  
Walk

**STEP 5**  
Triple step



Why not try your hand at some baking for your VE Day Party with these 1940's inspired recipes

**Cheese Swirls**

**Ingredients**

- 12oz / 340g of plain flour
- 4oz / 115g margarine
- 4oz / 115g mature cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs (7tbsp of dried eggs)
- 1 tsp of dried mustard powder
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 3 tsp of dried yeast



**Method**

1. Mix together the flour, mustard powder and yeast in a large bowl.
2. Break up the margarine and rub into the dry mixture, then add the grated cheese.
3. Mix in the egg and knead until the dough is formed.
4. Flour the surface and rolling pin. Roll out the dough until it is approximately 1cm thick in an oblong shape.
5. Roll it up like a long swiss roll and slice along to make approximately 30 whirls.
6. Place the whirls on a greased baking tray and brush with a little milk to glaze.
7. Place in an oven at gas mark 6 / 200°C for 12 – 15 minutes.

**Carrot Scones**

**Ingredients**

- 12 tbsp of self raising flour and 1 tsp of baking powder
- 2 tbsp margarine
- 4 tbsp sugar
- 8 tbsp grated carrot
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- Raspberry jam



**Method**

1. Preheat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°C.
2. Beat butter and sugar together until they are light and creamed.
3. Add in the grated carrot a bit at a time.
4. Add in the vanilla essence.
5. Slowly add the sifted flour in and keep beating the mixture until you are left with a sticky carrot – freckled dough.
6. Pinch a small amount of mixture and roll together in your hands until you have approximately 12 scones.
7. Place on a baking tray and sprinkle with sugar.
8. Cook for approximately 20 minutes.
9. Once cooled, serve with raspberry jam.

## Ginger Beer

### Ingredients

4.5 litres of boiled water

450g sugar

14g yeast

1 level tsp ground ginger

1 level tsp cream of tartar

### Method

1. Put your yeast in a large container with 280ml water and 1 tsp of sugar. Stir and leave to stand until the yeast rises.
2. Put the boiled water, sugar, ginger and cream of tartar into a jug. Once the water is lukewarm stir in the yeast.
3. Leave to stand until cool then skim well and bottle. It will be ready to drink in 2 days.



## **Games and activities**

Crack out traditional games such as cards, marbles, dice and jacks to bring everyone together.

Here's some other games popular in the 1940's to get you active and playing together:

### **Two balls up the wall**

Start slowly and hold two balls in your hands and throw them up against the wall one by one and carefully catch them. Once confident you could add another ball then another. You could let one bounce, throw another under one leg. The combinations are endless!

### **Hopscotch**

Use some chalk and make a hopscotch grid. Number the squares from one to nine. Pick a small stone or beanbag that is good for tossing. Start by tossing the rock onto Square 1. Hop over the rock and hop with a single foot or both feet (to follow the hopscotch pattern) all the way to the end. Turn around and come back, stopping on Square 2. Balancing on one foot, pick up the rock in Square 1 and hop over Square 1 to the start. Continue this pattern with Square 2. And so on. If you toss your rock and miss the correct square, your turn is over. This game can be played with any number of people, but only one person can go at a time.

### **Blind Man's Bluff**

A favourite game in Tudor and Victorian times and still popular in the 1940's, this game is yet another variation on tag. The person who is "it" wears a blindfold and tries to tag the other players. Be sure to play this in an area safe from obstructions and other hazards.