VE Day 75 Schools Pack

The Wait is Over!
Look Inside for Ideas & Resources
To Commemorate & Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day

VE Day Assembly PowerPoints covering VE Day, VJ Day & WWII

‘Look inside, chaps!’

Veterans’ Voices
Watch interviews with those who served in WW2

Bespoke ideas for VE Day Street Parties!
Churchill says "We can allow ourselves a brief moment of rejoicing"

Scottish Child’s view of WW2
‘...I never doubted for a minute we would win.’

VE Day Quizzes
Online Today
Learn, Play, Rejoice!

KEEP ME to use again for future learning around WW2 & VE Day
The Royal British Legion Scotland (Legion Scotland) is proud to announce that they will produce the National Event for the Victory in Europe Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations in Edinburgh on Friday 8th May 2020 in partnership with Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council and Poppyscotland. Legion Scotland will host World War Two veterans in Edinburgh to honour them as part of these celebrations.

Poppyscotland

Poppyscotland is proud to be able to provide a range of resources for schools to join in with the commemorations and celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in partnership with the Scottish Government, Legion Scotland and Education Scotland.

Email: learning@poppyscotland.org.uk

@poppyscotland

References

Full details of the information sources used to provide the historical facts, opinions, images and quotations used within this booklet can be found on our Poppyscotland Learning website. See ‘VE Day 75 References Guide’.

poppyscotland.org.uk/veday75/packreferences

Definition: Use of the abbreviated term ‘WW2’:

We have chosen to refer to the conflict known as The Second World War / World War II / World War Two / World War 2 (1939-1945), throughout this booklet as ‘WW2’, to assist with spacing and textual consistency.
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Victory in Europe Day, or VE Day (in Great Britain) is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allied Powers during World War 2 (WW2) of Nazi Germany’s unconditional surrender of its Armed Forces on May 8, 1945.
Upon the defeat of Germany, celebrations erupted throughout the Western world, especially in Great Britain and North America. More than one million people celebrated in the streets throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland to mark the end of the War in Europe.

In London, crowds gathered in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of the palace before the cheering crowds. Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth II) and her sister Princess Margaret were allowed to wander incognito among the crowds and take part in the celebrations.

Scotland celebrated with similar fervour, with the ringing of church bells, street parades, bonfires and spontaneous street parties. Everyone in Britain tuned into hear Churchill’s 3pm broadcast on the BBC announcing: “We can allow ourselves a brief moment of rejoicing.”

This handy booklet is packed full of ideas and resources to inspire your pupils to:

- Host a commemorative 75th Anniversary of VE Day Street Party to fundraise for us
- Engage in learning activities from Codebreaking to recreating Churchill’s famous speech
- Watch our VE Day inspired PowerPoint presentations as part of your special assembly or for classroom learning
- Quiz Challenges – you can find the answers by clicking on our 75 VE Day & WW2 Facts online
- Veterans’ Voices - Poppyscotland is extremely honoured to launch a new film series called Veterans’ Voices. These are interviews with veterans from WW2 sharing stories about their own deeply personal experiences.
Veterans’ Voices

Help our stories live on
Veterans’ Voices is a unique film resource, interviewing veterans to capture their experiences and thoughts on remembrance. The complete resource will feature a diverse range of voices from all over Scotland and of every military conflict from 1939 to the present day. Our hope is to create a legacy of personal stories that generations to come will be able to learn from.

The short video clips will help viewers develop a better understanding, engage with veterans and have greater appreciation of more recent and less well-known conflicts.

The first three of these are being released to coincide with the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. They are now available to view on our Poppyscotland Learning website to ensure greater understanding for future generations.

It is important that these voices are captured now before they can no longer be shared. There are learning resources available to complement the films.


“When I joined up I was 17. It was all teamwork. We depended on each other.”
Mary-Ann Sim

“I took part on the D-Day Landings at Normandy. We sailed from Plymouth on 3rd June. The Commanding Officer told us we were on our way to France. I was 18.”
Charles Horne

“You have to listen, I have to listen. You have an opinion, I have an opinion. But you can never settle things by fighting – otherwise my life has been wasted.”
Ian Forsyth
PowerPoint Resources

Kick-start your VE Day school assembly or classroom VE Day preparations by watching our three compelling VE Day, VJ Day & WW2 PowerPoints. They have been created to provide a stimulus for learning and reflection. They are designed for Second & Third Level pupils but can be adapted to suit other levels.

VE Day 75
Mark 75 years since the end of WW2 in Europe by watching our VE Day 75 PowerPoint. Packed full of historical facts, images, quotes and insights, charting the build up to VE Day, 8th May 1945, and showing the jubilation of the crowds that partied in the streets well into the night. Find out how the people of Scotland, the rest of the UK and those all over the Western world celebrated this most momentous of days.

A Brief Overview of WW2
World War 2 (WW2) was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. Starting with the rise of Adolf Hitler in a politically unstable Germany, to his invasion of Poland on 1st September 1939, the stage had become ominously set for another devastating conflict as Great Britain and its ally France declared war on Germany two days later. Learn who ‘the Allied Powers’ and ‘the Axis Powers’ were and why this War changed history like no other.

VJ Day
For Allied Forces soldiers who were still serving overseas on VE Day, celebrations were bittersweet. While victory had been achieved in Europe, the war was not yet over in the Far East and Pacific. The battle conditions there were some of the toughest of the war and thousands of Allied Service personnel were still fighting or remained prisoners of war. Learn about what happened during those final months of the WW2 and discover why Japan’s leaders agreed to sign the act of surrender on 2nd September 1945.

All resources can be accessed at: poppyscotland.org.uk/veday/powerpoints/
Learn 75 Facts about WW2, VE Day & VJ Day

Explore our fascinating online resource to learn 75 facts about WW2, VE Day & VJ Day. Who was the Spy Princess? What is Winkie the Scottish pigeon famous for? When did food rationing end?

Activities

1. Go to: poppyscotland.org.uk/veday75/ to see our fabulous illustrations and learn interesting and unusual facts about child evacuees, a St Bernard dog with a bus pass, codebreaking, the Merchant Navy, Polish soldiers, heroic animals, a Mickey Mouse-shaped gas mask, soldier bears, famous battles, key dates, fashion in the 1940s and much, much more!

2. Next, test your knowledge by downloading our quizzes!

Did you know?

The Royal Family made eight balcony appearances on VE Day.

Force K6: Punjabi Muslims of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps (RIASC) were key to Churchill’s ‘Operation Jupiter’.
Lots of Scottish women joined the Women’s Timber Corps, nicknamed the ‘Lumberjills’.

Alexander Fleming invented something that saved thousands of lives in WW2.

British Red Cross volunteers provided vital life-saving medical help to victims of the London Blitz. They drove ambulances, carried stretchers and rescued people from demolished houses.

A former Scot assigned to the Diplomatic Corps is the inspiration behind James Bond, 007.

Young women travelled from Britain to the USA as brides of GIs, but how many? Go online to find out.
Celebrating VE Day

A celebration heard around the world!
Street parties in the UK started in 1919 as ‘Peace Teas’ after World War One (1914-1918).

This was the first time street parties had been organised by residents on a mass basis. They were part of the Peace Treaty celebrations, and also provided a special treat for children to sit down for a tea in times of hardship. Following the military surrender signed by Germany on 7th May, Victory in Europe was declared on 8th May 1945 to signal the end of the war.

Celebrations erupted all over Britain with crowds gathering at local landmarks to rejoice. Crowds were encouraged to wear patriotic red, white and blue. Local communities came together to host joyous street parties, dances and sing-songs all across the country; many lasting until the small hours of the morning. Bonfires lit up the skies with reports of Hitler effigies being burned up and down the country.

It is important to note that amongst the celebrations, the war in the Far East continued and many families would also have been mourning the loss of their loved ones.

Activities

1. Read first-hand accounts of how people in Scotland celebrated VE Day on 8th May 1945. Diary extracts can be found at: scottisharchivesforschools.org/LettersAndDiaries/VictoryInEuropeCelebrations.asp.

2. Watch the Scottish celebrations of VE Day like this street procession in Dumbarton: poppyscotland.org.uk/veday75/

3. Research how your town celebrated VE Day. Visit your school library, read some old newspapers and speak to a relative who may have been one of the crowd celebrating on that day.

DID YOU KNOW?

During Edinburgh’s VE Day celebrations, chocolates and chewing gum were showered upon the thousands of young people who had gathered in the streets of the city centre. It was also reported a marine conducted a community sing-song of war-time favourites such as, ‘Roll Out The Barrell’ and ‘Land of Hope and Glory’ as paper confetti and flags waved throughout the bustling streets.
Host your own VE Day Street Party

Decorations for your Street Party
Throwing your own VE Day Street Party in school is great way to engage pupils with WW2 and VE Day. With anticipation of VE Day announcements looming, communities across Britain were decorating cities, towns and villages on the days running up to 8th May 1945. Flags were hoisted, Union Jack bunting was draped across public spaces and homemade confetti was scattered down streets across Great Britain.

Activities
1. Collect old newspapers and decorate your classroom with recycled paper chains. See how long a chain you and your classmates can make.
2. Reuse old T-shirts and create your own VE Day bunting. Why not encourage every classmate to make their own unique bunting and create a commemorative VE Day bunting to treasure forever. Find a simple bunting template to cut out here: tes.com/teaching-resource/diy-bunting-template-12129619
3. Make your very own Spitfire and hang on your classroom ceiling with invisible thread. Find a Spitfire template to cut out here: teachingideas.co.uk/world-war-2/make-your-own-spitfire

Fun & Games at your Street Party
The lives of children were massively impacted by WW2 with the threat of evacuations, gas attacks, bombing raids, rationing and changes at home and school. Games provided much needed respite and normality with outdoors activities such as football becoming increasingly popular throughout the war for both civilians and those in Service.

Activities
1. Jump rope was a very popular pastime for children during the war. Take up a classroom skipping challenge – who can reach to 75 skips? Are there any 1940s rhymes you know to go along with your skipping challenge – why not research some?
2. Get out in the fresh air and get involved in a classroom game of Chutes and Ladders or Hopscotch – all you need is chalk and the playground.
VE Day Street Party Bake Sale

No party is complete without cakes! Still very much faced with austerity, communities joined together and shared limited food to create special celebratory spreads with lashings of warm tea. Although rationing was still in place during VE Day, people baked special treats like Victory cakes and Lord Woolton pie. Proceeds from your school’s bake sale could go to Poppyscotland.

DID YOU KNOW?

Under rationing, home cooks had to get inventive with their baking. To overcome the lack of eggs, recipes would often call for mashed potatoes to be used instead. Try this version of Scottish shortbread www.recipespastandpresent.org.uk/wartime/717/

WEEKLY FOOD ALLOWANCE

Here is a typical weekly food allowance for one adult during WW2. Children would receive half this amount:

- Bacon and ham (3-4 slices/rashers) 4 oz
- Other meats – 2 small chops
- Butter 2 oz
- Cheese 2 oz
- Margarine 4 oz
- Cooking fat 4 oz
- Milk 3 pints
- Plus 1 packet dried milk per month
- Sugar 8 oz
- Preserves every two months 1 lb
- Tea 2 oz
- Egg (shell egg) 1
- 1 packet dried egg per month
- Sweets 12 oz

Activities

1. Host a school tuck shop selling WW2 favourites like cola cubes, sherbet lemons, barley sugars, pear drops and liquorice. Remember to use recyclable paper bags & recycled jars to store the sweets.

2. Follow ration restrictions and use powdered milk and egg in recipes. Do a taste test with your fellow classmates – can anyone tell the difference? Have a go at recreating a wartime bake like this low sugar carrot cake. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome/recipes/wartime-carrot-cake.

3. Design your very own VE Day cake recipe using WW2 rationing ingredients. Decorate with wartime sweets and dried fruits. (see weekly food allowance list).
Help our Armed Forces community by hosting a Poppyscotland Tea & Toast.

Tea & Toast comes from a military tradition of having a cup of tea and slice of toast at break times when away on operations, providing a comforting reminder of home.

Host a Poppyscotland Tea & Toast at your school’s Breakfast Club.

It is really easy to organise and great fun. All you need is some tea bags, some hot water and lots of toast. Poppyscotland’s Regional Fundraising team are here to help you - from providing materials like Poppy bunting, napkins and collection tins, to letting you know the easiest way to send us the donations you worked hard to raise: poppyscotland.org.uk/tea-&-toast/

Activity

1. Try out a wartime bread recipe on your guests like this one www.thewartimekitchen.com/?p=106. Do a taste comparison to a modern loaf—can you taste the difference?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Federation of Bakers introduced the ‘National Loaf’ in 1942. An everyday staple, the bread was made of wholemeal flour and packed full of vitamin B1. This was due to the reduction in the import of wheat which meant more flour was extracted from the grain. Unfortunately, the ‘National Loaf’ did not have many fans with many finding the bread’s grey colour and unusual texture very unappealing.
Music of WW2

Ready for a sing-song?

Music during WW2 provided civilians and soldiers with a much-needed escape from the bleak hardships of wartime life. As well as being entertaining, music was an important morale booster for the British with American big band leaders Glenn Miller and Artie Shaw proving incredibly popular on the airwaves. The songs of the era often focused on feelings of longing and resilience which resonated to both the Home Front and Armed Forces.

Activities

1. Sing along to some wartime favourites with your classmates during your school assembly or very own VE Day Street Party. See Poppyscotland’s VE Day Playlist and Sing-a-Long sheets: poppyscotland.org.uk/veday75/

2. Recreate the sound of the big bands with your school orchestra. What different instruments can you hear in the songs? Here’s one of WW2’s most well-known instrumentals to get budding musicians started. www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vOuYry_5Nw

3. Learn more about ‘Forces Sweetheart’ Vera Lynn or big band leader Glenn Miller.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Barrowlands, one of Scotland’s most beloved dancehalls, remained open throughout WW2 despite bombing threats. The precursor to the now iconic shooting star sign was a neon light of a ‘barra-boy’ holding a wheelbarrow. It was taken down during the war as William Joyce (Nazi propaganda politician) frequently mentioned the landmark during radio broadcasts. It was eventually removed in case of recognition from German planes.

DID YOU KNOW?

London born singer Vera Lynn, affectionately known as the ‘Forces Sweetheart’ had her own radio show, Sincerely Yours – Vera Lynn, where she passed on messages to troops serving overseas from their loved ones. The show was immensely popular with over 2000 requests for messages a week.
Dancing was one of the most popular pastimes in Britain, with young men and women flocking to local dancehalls, ballrooms and church halls to dance their cares away. These places offered a friendly atmosphere and much needed escape from the everyday challenges faced during the war. Civilians socialised with local and overseas forces. In the early 1940s, American troops introduced British dancers to new fast-paced dance crazes like the Lindy Hop and Jitterbug.

Activities

1. Change up your social dancing class, get those endorphins going and have a go at the Jitterbug. See YouTube for lots of great instructional videos like: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs8tbzUr6cQ and this website for step-by-steps instructions: dance.lovetoknow.com/Jitterbug_Dance_Steps

2. Host a dancing competition with couples dancing to our Poppyscotland VE Day playlist.

POPPYSCOTLAND VE DAY PLAYLIST

- Glenn Miller
  - In The Mood
- The Andrews Sisters
  - Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy
  - Don’t Sit Under The Apple Tree
  - Chattanooga Choo Choo
- Johnny Mercer
  - G.I. Jive
- Vaughn Monroe
  - When The Lights Go On All Over The World
- Spike Jones
  - Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag
- Vera Lynn
  - We’ll Meet Again
- Flanagan and Allen
  - Run, Rabbit, Run
- Gracie Fields
  - Thing-Ummy-Bob
A Scottish Child’s View of the War

In the summer of 1939, Hamish Cameron, who lived with his Mum, Dad and sister Elspeth in Ayr, remembers having a foreboding sense that war would come:

“Even I, as a child, knew that war was coming despite optimistic newspaper headlines... we had been issued with gas masks fairly recently”.

Child Evacuation: Operation Pied Piper

One of the most emotionally wrenching decisions made by the British government during WW2 was its decision to evacuate (move away) infants and children living in some British cities to protect them from the risk of German bomb attacks. Parents prepared their children for the long journey to the countryside by equipping them with a list of supplies such as a warm coat, overnight clothes, hairbrush, blanket, and some food for the journey (although not all parents could afford to do so). Every evacuee was given a label showing their name, address, date of birth and their school. Children were accompanied by a guardian, usually their teacher, who travelled with them to a reception centre in a new town.

Nearly 170,000 Scottish schoolchildren were evacuated from the crowded city centres of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee and the naval ports of Rosyth and Clydebank, where the shipyards and munitions factories, crucial to the war effort were key targets.

‘I’ll take that one’, Evacuee host parent

New arrivals were asked to line up against a wall or stage in the village hall and potential hosts were invited to take their pick. The phrase, "I’ll take that one" became a statement indelibly etched in countless children’s memories. Children’s experiences of evacuation were mixed: for some it was a life-enhancing adventure, while others were homesick. In some cases, evacuees were brutally mistreated by their host parent.
Glasgow Evacuees arrive in Ayr
In September 1939 Hamish recalls seeing child evacuees from Glasgow arriving at Ayr Academy:

"We looked at long lines of children, evacuated from Glasgow, streaming along Fort Street. They were walking from the railway station to Ayr Academy, which was a reception centre. From there evacuees were distributed amongst families in Ayr. I remember being appalled by the sight of those children. All were carrying bundles and, of course, gas masks, but many of them, to us, looked dirty and many appeared to be in rags. We were not rich and wore patched jerseys and shorts, but that was my first glimpse of real poverty. Years later I learned that they came from some of the worst slums of Glasgow where conditions were beyond our imaginations."

The Greenock Blitz
In his account, Hamish also describes his family’s experience of the 1941 Greenock Blitz:

"I remember the first air raid quite clearly because we were wakened by Granny and told to get our dressing gowns on and get downstairs quickly. All lights, of course, were out. Even though the thick blackout curtains would not let a chink out during the raid you took no chances and used only torches. We joined the others on the lower part of the stairs, which was considered the safest part of the house as, at that particular part, there were two walls on either side, and that is where Granny and Grandpa were a year later when they were bombed out, and which probably saved them. We sat on the stairs for several hours, mostly in the dark. We played word games and invented tortures to inflict on Hitler. Even then, in the darkest days of the war, we never doubted for a minute that we would win.

One night I woke up and went downstairs to find Mum in the dark, with the blackout shutters open standing at the sitting room window looking out at the red glow in the sky. I knew how dangerous it was to stand at a window during a raid so I knew she must be worried. I remember her putting her hand on my shoulder and saying “Some poor souls are getting it bad tonight”. I could see the great glow in the sky which, as we discovered later, was Greenock burning."
The Kindertransport

The Kindertransport (German for ‘children’s transport’) was a rescue effort that helped 10,000 mainly Jewish children escape from Adolf Hitler’s reign of terror in Nazi-occupied countries in Europe.

This humanitarian rescue operation started in 1938, before WW2 broke out, bringing children from Czechoslovakia, Germany and Austria to the sanctuary of the UK. On 2nd December 1938, the first Kindertransport arrived in Harwich, England — 200 children from a Jewish orphanage that had been destroyed during ‘Kristallnacht’ (German for ‘Crystal Night’ or Night of the Broken Glass), when Nazis attacked Jewish people and destroyed property.

The late Sir Nicholas Winton, a British Jewish Stockbroker, was one of the key ‘heroes’ of the transports, who risked his life organising the rescue of 669 children destined for concentration camps. He organised foster families for Jewish children by placing adverts in newspapers. He and his team even persuaded British custom officials to accept children with incomplete documentation. Former MP, Lord Dubs, who was six years old when he escaped from Czechoslovakia on a Kindertransport train (one of eight trains that travelled across four countries), has described Sir Nicholas Winton as:

“...just one of those special human beings. His legacy is that when there is a need for you to do something for your fellow human beings, you have got to do it.”

Some Jewish children travelled on from London to Glasgow on a train in May 1939. One of them was Henry Wuga, he says he was made to feel ‘very welcome’ by his host, an older Jewish lady. “Within a few weeks I was at school – Queen’s Park School” (in the Battlefield area of Glasgow).

The children paid a high price for their freedom. Research by The Association of Jewish Refugees determined that over 50 per cent never saw either of their parents again with some losing their entire families.
Activities

1. Write a VE Day diary account imagining you are Hamish or his sister Elspeth. What did they do on VE Day when it finally happened? Do they remember their Mum and Dad dancing around the kitchen? Did they listen to Churchill’s 3pm speech on the radio/wireless set?

2. What must it have been like to have been on the Kindertransport? Imagine you had to leave your country and your family as a young child. Write a letter to your parents describing your journey.

3. Interview a member of your community who was a child during WW2. Might they have been a child evacuee? If so, where did they go to live during WW2? Do they remember the Greenock Blitz of 1941? What are their most vivid memories of being a child during WW2?

Reading ideas

Many classic novels were inspired by the experiences of WW2 child evacuees. Some authors, like Nina Bawden, (author of Carrie’s War) had themselves experienced evacuation.

Michael Bond’s Paddington Bear (1958) is about an orphan bear found by a family at Paddington railway station in London, sitting on his suitcase with a note attached to his coat that reads: “Please look after this bear. Thank you.”

In C.S. Lewis’s novel The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950) the Pevensie children are evacuated from London to the stately manor that contains the wardrobe portal to Narnia.

William Golding’s novel Lord of the Flies (1954) is about a plane full of child evacuees who are shot down over a tropical island.

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian focuses on a young boy, Willie Beech, who is evacuated to the countryside and grows in confidence due to the care of old Mister Tom.

Credit: Scottish Child’s View of WW2, words of Hamish Cameron, from WW2 People’s War. WW2 People’s War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/04/a9900004.shtml
Food Rationing

At the start of 1940 the British government introduced food rationing to ensure that everyone got a fair share of foods that were becoming increasingly scarce. The Ministry of Food was responsible for overseeing rationing and issued every man, woman and child with a ration book.

Basic foodstuffs such as sugar, meat, fats, bacon and cheese were directly rationed by an allowance of coupons. A number of other items, such as tinned goods, dried fruit, cereals and biscuits, were rationed using a points system. The number of points allocated changed according to availability and consumer demand. Extra allowances of essentials such as milk and eggs were given to those most in need, including children and expectant mothers.

It was common to have to queue for a very long time to get the food you wanted and often people would reach the front of the line to discover that the foods they wanted had run out. Food rationing did not end until 1954.

Visit our website to see various British Pathé information films about rationing and recipes: poppyscotland.org.uk/veday75/

Activities

1 Classroom takeover. Using Ministry of Food leaflets and recipes for inspiration, create your own VE Day afternoon tea celebration. Think about the rationing restrictions and what could be substituted to create a yummy feast. The more creative the better.

2 Bake some of your recipes as a class or in groups to have your own afternoon tea in class or share in assembly.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many children growing up during WW2 had never seen a banana until rationing ended.
Dig For Victory!

As a lot of food was imported to Britain, the ships carrying the food were always under threat of attack from German U-boats. People were encouraged to grow their own fruit and vegetables in their gardens as well as using parks and sports pitches to create allotments for growing vegetables. People also kept their own chickens, pigs, rabbits and goats. This was known as the Dig For Victory campaign.

DID YOU KNOW?  
The head of the Agricultural Plans Branch of the Ministry of Food, Professor John Raeburn, born in Aberdeen, set up the Dig for Victory campaign.

DID YOU KNOW?  
Even the lawns outside the Tower of London were turned into vegetable patches.

The campaign produced many posters encouraging people to grow their own food featuring the characters “Dr Carrot” and “Potato Pete”.

Activities

1 Classroom takeover. Create your own allotment in your playground. Where would you put it? Are there areas of grass or soil where you could build raised beds to grow your vegetables? Think about what vegetables you could grow and how you could design your allotment. Work together as a class or in groups to plant your vegetables and tend to them throughout the year.

2 The Dig For Victory campaign had a very successful marketing campaign including posters, radio broadcasts and even songs to keep people’s morale up and encourage them to grow as much as they could. Design your own marketing campaign to encourage people to grow their own food. What would be the benefits for people? How would you encourage them? Think about using different types of media to get your campaign across.
Fashion on the Ration

Clothing was rationed in Britain from 1st June 1941 to 15th March 1949. This allowed manufacturers to focus on producing military uniforms, ensure the fair distribution of garments across the UK and safeguard raw materials such as leather.

New clothing could be purchased during the war through the coupon scheme with every civilian issued with a coupon book. Each type of garment was appointed a points value e.g. 11 coupons were required for a dress and 8 coupons for a man’s pair of trousers. At the start of rationing each adult was given the allocation of 66 points per year, but coupons shrank every year as the war progressed.

During the war a special all-in-one garment called a ‘Siren Suit’ was worn by men, women and children during air-raids. These garments were often worn over night-clothes in the event of an air-raid and were designed to be easily taken on and off with button and zip closures. There was even a panel in the rear of the garment to make trips to the toilet easier for the wearer. Winston Churchill was particularly fond of the ‘Siren Suit’ and he wore several made-to-measure designs throughout the war.

Knit for Victory

Knitting was hugely popular during the war and contributed to the war effort. With materials scarce knitters had to be creative in their designs, often using mismatching wool to finish garments resulting in unusual patterns and colours. Magazines encouraged civilians to make the most of worn jumpers and scarves and provided details of how knitters could repurpose old worn out jumpers by unwinding them and using the wool to knit a new garment from scratch.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children were encouraged to ‘knit for victory’ in schools with young boys and girls knitting socks, scarves, hats and gloves in Army colours as part of the war effort.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to the Blackouts, sales of white coats were on the rise during WW2 as they increased the visibility of the wearer. Retailers sold accessories such as handbags and brooches with high visibility features like reflective buttons on them to help British civilians be seen.
Activities

1. Get creative and make your own 1940s style ‘Rag Rug’ – all you need is old T-shirts, scissors and a shower matt (with holes). See how to create your own classroom rag rug here:
   youtube.com/watch?v=6XWqhyS9W8k

2. Make Do and Mend sessions – make your favourite clothes last longer by learning how to look after them properly. Learn basic sewing skills like repairing holes and tears, attaching buttons and fixing hems:
   loveyourclothes.org.uk/blogs/make-do-and-mend

3. Start your own ‘Knitting Circle’ in class and learn how to knit a simple scarf using old remnants (check your local charity shop for odd balls of wool):
   youtube.com/watch?v=IsrAA4dJRIAVIDEO

Make Do and Mend Activity

Each child had 48 coupons to spend on clothing each year during WW2.

Using the template, imagine your family home had been bombed during the Clydebank Blitz and you had no clothing except what you had on. How would you spend your clothing coupons for the year? Think about what you would need for the colder months as well as school. How would this affect your daily life?

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<tr>
<td>Shoes/ Boots</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyjamas</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underwear</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Victory Rolls’ are one of the most iconic hairstyles from the 1940s. The hairstyle is often associated with manoeuvres performed by fighter planes in WW2. Planes would spin horizontally as a sign of victory or celebration, so this style is perfect to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. As more women were enrolled in the workforce the victory roll was a practical style that was suitable for working in factories — it kept their hair out of their faces and away from the dangerous machines.

The war also affected men’s personal grooming. Many men wore haircuts typically associated with the military like the crew cut and undercut. These styles were easily maintained, practical, and most importantly, would not get caught up in any of the helmets or weapons in the men’s uniforms. Hair tonics and styling creams like Brylcreem were used to create shine and provide definition.

During WW2 makeup was still manufactured in the UK but in limited quantities. Makeup was never rationed but was subject to a luxury tax and very costly. Lipstick was seen to be important for overall morale. Brands created patriotic compacts, lipsticks and powders with spirit-rousing names like ‘Auxiliary Red’, ‘Victory Red’ and ‘Regimental Red’ to encourage women to support the troops and keep up appearances.

Hair & Beauty in WW2
American film star Veronica Lake famously cut her trademark peek-a-boo long hairstyle in the favour of a shorter style that was more reflective of the styles worn by female factory workers. Long hair was often considered unsafe within the work environment with the risk of longer locks getting caught in dangerous machinery.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pop-Up Parlour

Turn your classroom into a vintage style 1940s Pop-Up Parlour and get ready for your VE Day Street Party with your classmates. Why not try a dapper slick back? There's a style for everyone – to learn how to create perfect Victory Rolls follow these instructions: wikihow.com/Do-Victory-Rolls

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Activities

What you’ll need for your 1940s Pop-Up Parlour:

1. Hair tools – backcombing brush, vent brush and comb.
2. Kirby grips - all colours to compliments everyone’s hair.
3. Spray - add two tablespoons of sugar to hot water, mix and pour into a reusable spray bottle. Add your favourite essential oil for scent.
4. Some pomade - to smooth away fly-aways and give shine to your new do. You can buy different brands of pomades in most chemists or supermarkets.
5. Pre-curl hair - sleep in pleats or foam rollers for lots of vintage waves.
6. Accessories – flowers, headscarves and snoods to dress up your up-dos.
Become a WW2 Codebreaker

The Bletchley Park Codebreakers
Bletchley Park was the top-secret home of the Allied codebreakers in Britain and a birthplace of modern information technology. Bletchley recruited chess champions, crossword experts, intelligence staff and cryptic communication specialists to help crack the Axis Powers intelligence codes and ciphers. The most well known was the German Enigma machine.

Enigma machines featured a set of circular rotors, as well as a plugboard, which helped create millions of different possible settings for the messages German forces were sending to each other. German Enigma operators were instructed to change their machine’s settings every 24 hours, which meant that staff at Bletchley Park had to work around the clock, often by hand, to try to break that day’s Enigma messages.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Government Code and Cypher School (GC & CS) and Station X, a secret radio interception station, were also at Bletchley Park. The information gained by workers at Bletchley Park was very important for the Allied War effort.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1939, in Warsaw, the Polish military showed French and British intelligence agents their cryptanalysis of the Enigma. They promised each delegation a Polish-built Enigma.
The Bombe Machine
It became clear that more formally trained mathematicians were needed to help break the Enigma code. Among Bletchley’s most notable early codebreakers were mathematicians Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman as well as chess champions Hugh Alexander and Stuart Milner-Barry.

Alan Turing believed that only a machine could beat a machine, so he designed the Bombe Machine to help them finally crack the Enigma code.

The electronic Bombe machines featured multiple drums which replicated the Enigma machine circular rotors, allowing for potential setting combinations to be quickly checked. Turing’s invention meant that Bletchley Park codebreakers were able to decode quickly and pass on intelligence – often with enough time for it to be acted upon. Bombe machines were so successful that the Germans remained unaware the information sent on their “unbreakable” Enigma machines had actually been cracked by the Allies.

A large amount of women also worked at Bletchley Park recruited from the organisations such as the WRNS (Women’s Royal Naval Service), the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) and the WAAF (Women’s Auxiliary Air Force). By 1945, 75 per cent of the staff of Bletchley Park were women. Most were involved in administrative work; however some were codebreakers such as Jean Valentine (born 1924, Scotland) who was an operator of the Bombé machine. Her role was to test different combinations to break the Enigma codes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Historians believe that the work of Alan Turing and his fellow codebreakers helped to shorten the duration of WW2 by two years.
Become a WW2 Codebreaker

Activity

Can you crack the code?
Write the deciphered letters above the code as you work through the message.

Think about . . .
How long did it take you to crack the code?
What steps did you take to try and crack it?
What difficulties did you face when attempting to complete the code? A Bletchley Park employee may have had to overcome the same ones.
Did you have to decode each letter or could you guess some based on letters you had already found?
What would you do differently next time to crack the code faster? The codebreakers at Bletchley Park had to work out their codes very quickly.
### Activity

**Write your own message**

Using the A-Z code on page 28, write each letter of your message in one of the white boxes. Use / to show a space between words. Then pass your message to somebody else. Can they decipher it? They should write the deciphered letters in the shaded boxes.

**Tip:**
You can download this grid and find more codebreaking activities online.

**Did you crack the code?**

The workers of Bletchley Park would have felt exactly as you did! They had to solve difficult problems under lots of pressure without a lot of time. They often had to use ‘trial and error’, meaning they had to test lots of different methods and different possibilities until they found the ones that worked.

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*Credit: The Codebreaking activities in this booklet have been reproduced with the kind permission of Bletchley Park Learning. To learn more about Bletchley Park, please visit: bletchleypark.org.uk*
Women’s Contributions to WW2

Women were central to the war effort during WW2 providing a range of essential services from nursing to engineering. They also played a vital role on the Home Front, running households and fighting a daily battle of rationing, recycling, reusing, and growing food in allotments and gardens.

From 1941, women were called up for war work as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens, bus and fire engine drivers. At first, only single women, aged 20-30 were called up, but by mid-1943, almost 90 per cent of single women and 80 per cent of married women were working in factories, on the land or in the Armed Forces.

There were more than 640,000 women in the Armed Forces, including The Women’s Royal Naval Service (WRNS), the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), plus many more who flew unarmed aircraft and drove ambulances. The WRNS were involved in some of the most secret planning for D-Day.

Many women worked at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire helping to intercept German communications, crack codes and operating the most advanced technology in the world. Their work was top secret and remained so for many years following the war.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Special Operations Executive (SOE), Winston Churchill recruited around 60 women ‘to set Europe ablaze’. They were deployed behind enemy lines, usually by parachute or fishing boats, to help form a ‘secret army’ of resistance fighters preparing the way for the Allied invasion.

For a healthy, happy job

JOIN US
The Women’s Land Army trained teams of girls as “Anti-vermin Squads”. Their job was to protect the food and crops growing in the fields from pests such as rats and foxes. There were thought to be 50 million rats in Britain during WW2!

DID YOU KNOW?
Queen Elizabeth II, who was Princess Elizabeth during WW2, served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and trained as a driver and mechanic. She reached the rank of Junior Commander. Winston Churchill’s youngest daughter was also a member of the ATS.

DID YOU KNOW?
During WW2, 10,000 women worked at the Rolls-Royce factory in Hillington, Glasgow, building the Merlin engines that powered Spitfires and the Lancaster Bomber.

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**Activities**

1. How many different organisations could women join and what sorts of tasks would they be doing?

2. Create a propaganda poster encouraging women to contribute to the war effort.

3. Look at some of the different uniforms for women and design a new uniform for one of the women’s services. Think about the kind of work they would be doing and what sort of colour(s) the uniform would be.

4. What happened to women in work following VE Day. Or when the troops started to come home? Did they keep working? Did they return to the home? How would this affect them?

5. Write a diary entry for a woman working in a munitions factory. What would the conditions have been like? Would it have been hard work?
After Churchill made his radio broadcast on VE Day he appeared on the balcony of the Ministry of Health building in London to a mass of cheering crowds. When he declared: ‘This is your victory.’ The crowd shouted back: ‘No – it’s yours!’
“We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender...”

From Churchill’s speech following the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk.

“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”

From Churchill’s speech made on 20th August 1940 praising the ongoing efforts of the RAF during the Battle of Britain.

“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat”

From Churchill’s first speech in office as Prime Minister following the resignation of Neville Chamberlain.

“At this time, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.”

From Churchill’s first speech in office as Prime Minister following the resignation of Neville Chamberlain.

“Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”

From Churchill’s speech made on 18th June 1940 praising the RAF during the Battle of Britain.

Activities

1. Channel your inner Churchill and perform a dramatic reading of one (or more) of Churchill’s speeches from WW2. You could perform these in class or during assembly.

2. Study Churchill’s speeches and create your own VE Day speech in pairs or groups. What linguistic devices could you use? What ways could you transmit your speech to reach the most people in the shortest amount of time?
Churchill’s VE Day Speech
8th May 1945 (abridged)

Yesterday morning at 2:41 am at Headquarters, General Jodl, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Doenitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German land, sea, and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command.

Today this agreement will be ratified and confirmed at Berlin... Hostilities will end officially at one minute after midnight tonight (Tuesday, May 8), but in the interests of saving lives the ceasefire began yesterday to be sounded all along the front, and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today.

The Germans are still in places resisting the Russian troops, but should they continue to do so after midnight they will, of course, deprive themselves of the protection of the laws of war, and will be attacked from all quarters by the Allied troops. It is not surprising that on such long fronts and in the existing disorder of the enemy the orders of the German High Command should not in every case be obeyed immediately. This does not, in our opinion, with the best military advice at our disposal, constitute any reason for withholding from the nation the facts communicated to us by General Eisenhower of the unconditional surrender already signed at Rheims, nor should it prevent us from celebrating today and tomorrow (Wednesday) as Victory in Europe days.

Today, perhaps, we shall think mostly of ourselves. Tomorrow we shall pay a particular tribute to our Russian comrades, whose prowess in the field has been one of the grand contributions to the general victory.

The German war is therefore at an end. After years of intense preparation, Germany hurled herself on Poland at the beginning of September, 1939; and, in pursuance of our guarantee to Poland and in agreement with the French Republic, Great Britain, the British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations, declared war upon this foul aggression. After gallant France had been struck down we, from this Island and from our united Empire, maintained the struggle single-handed for a whole year until we were joined by the military might of Soviet Russia, and later by the overwhelming power and resources of the United States of America.

Our gratitude to our splendid Allies goes forth from all our hearts in this Island and throughout the British Empire.

We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead... We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad. Advance, Britannia! Long live the cause of freedom! God save the King!
Wireless in the 1940s

Communications: The ‘Wireless’
As most homes did not have a television set until the 1950s and 1960s, the radio was the main form of home communication and entertainment during the war. Listening to the ‘wireless’ was one of Britain’s most loved pastimes during WW2. Most families could afford a radio and would listen in daily to hear updates from overseas about the war. The radio entertained and informed the British public, providing families with daily updates of overseas developments and offering moments of relief with music and comedy shows.

All across Britain, families tuned into the BBC to hear Winston Churchill announce the end of war in Europe at 3pm on 8th May 1945. Following the announcement, the BBC broadcasted a range of pre-recorded celebratory programmes celebrating Victory in Europe. You can hear excerpts from VE Day radio broadcasting here: 
bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/may/ve-day-broadcasts

VE Day Celebrations in New Zealand were held on the 9th May instead of the 8th because the government wanted to wait until Winston Churchill’s speech had been broadcast. Due to the time difference, the speech was broadcast the following morning.

DID YOU KNOW? Eight out of ten families in Britain owned a radio. The radio was an important way to keep cheerful during the war.
Newspapers
Much like the radio, newspapers kept civilians up to date about the ongoing conflict. War affects all aspects of daily life and newspapers were also key in sharing advice for how best the home front could contribute to the war effort and live as normal a life as possible.

Activities
1. Record your school’s very own VE Day Street Party radio show – share stories of how your school is celebrating and highlight local stories of VE Day to treasure for years to come. Share your radio show, pictures and VE Day experiences on your school’s social media.

2. Recreate your own VE Day headline newspaper using a template like this: flipsnack.com/templates/black-white-school-newspaper-template

3. Discuss in groups communication in the 1940s compared to modern day. How do you find out about what’s going on in the world today? Can you imagine not hearing from loved ones daily?
Poppyscotland provides life-changing support to our Armed Forces community. We reach out to those who have served, those still serving, and their families at times of crisis and need by offering vital, practical advice, assistance and funding.

We believe that those who serve or have served, whether regular or reserve, are deserving of our support to live life fully without disadvantage after service. No veteran should live without the prospect of employment, good health and a home, and we all have a part to play in achieving this.

Scottish Poppy Appeal
Poppyscotland is best known for running the iconic Scottish Poppy Appeal, but we work all year round to help those who have served, those still serving and their families receive the care and support they urgently need.

Poppyscotland Learning
The Poppyscotland Learning Team, in partnership with Legion Scotland, Education Scotland, and other partners, work to create complimentary Curriculum for Excellence resources and fundraising materials which you can find on our website. We aim to inspire practitioners and learners across Scotland, to learn about how conflict has shaped society today and to reflect on the significance of remembrance.

The Royal British Legion Scotland is the largest military veteran membership charity in Scotland with a network of over 140 branches with 61 social clubs and 24,000 members. We look after the ex-Service community and their dependants by providing comradeship and veterans support as well as fundraising for veterans causes and perpetuating remembrance.

Support for Veterans
Our service provides individualised support to build self-confidence and independence, helping veterans get the most from life. The service makes a significant difference not only to those we support but also to their families. Our volunteers are based in the communities they help and offer friendship and support to veterans and their dependants. We also offer free pensions advice, help with claim forms and the expert services of our team who will represent you at your appeal whether or not you are a member of Legion Scotland. We can also assist with certain associated benefit claims.

Membership
Join us to become part of the largest ex-Service membership organisation in Scotland. Membership gives you the opportunity to get involved locally to have a voice and an influence on veterans issues. Our members are an integral part of our volunteering and fundraising network across Scotland. New members are always welcome, as are volunteers to assist with our Remembrance, Comradeship and Veterans Community Support Service.
Bud is Poppyscotland’s vehicle for exploration and learning, a truck that transforms into a mini poppy factory, micro-museum with interactive learning opportunities. We are proud to confirm Bud is free to book and accessible for all.

Bud encourages visitors to create their personal remembrance journey through exploring the exhibits. It is helping us keep remembrance relevant all year round. Bud can travel anywhere in Scotland to visit schools and attend events of all shapes and sizes.

**Volunteer with Poppyscotland**

We are looking for volunteers from 16 years and over to help us on Bud, Poppy Appeal, Fundraising and more.

**Book Bud for FREE for your event or school**

popybud.org.uk

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Concept&Graft: Veterans’ Voices photos
V is for Victory

Scotland celebrates with Peace Tea & Toast Street Parties

PoppyScotland & Legion Scotland lead celebrations for VE Day. Go online today to find all of these resources at PoppyScotland Learning.

Inkings/illustrations by Tom Morgan-Jones

VETS IS FOR VALOUR  VETS IS FOR VICTORY  VETS IS FOR VETERANS