



VE Day

Home Learning Pack

Included in this pack:

- Diary reading practice
- Diary writing task
- 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 1 and 2 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 phonic knowledge and skills to read words;
- read accurately blending sounds in words;
- to answer questions about what they have read.

Writing

- year 1, to write simple sentences;
- year 2, to write for different purposes (a diary).

History

- to learn about significant historical events.

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

Diary reading practice

Read the first **Dear Diary** entry, Monday 7th May 1945, with your child. Year 2 children should be able to read most of this independently, whereas year 1 children will need more support. Encourage them to use their phonics to read new words and reread sentences to build fluency and help understanding. After reading, discuss the questions. This could be done orally, or year 2 children may be able to write their answers independently.

Repeat, reading the entry for Tuesday 8th May 1945 and discussing the questions.

Talk about what these diaries tell us about what life was like in 1945 and the events that were happening.

Diary writing task

Reread the diary entries from the reading practice task and talk about what is needed in a diary (writing about things that have happened, sharing feelings).

Your child can then write their own diary entry about a memorable event using the **writing task sheet**. This could be a trip to the beach, playing a favourite game at home, a birthday or any other event that they can remember.

Design a medal activity

Using the **PowerPoint**, read the information about 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 **daily diary template** provided gives your child the opportunity to write a simple diary entry with space for a picture. This could be printed out and completed daily 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?
- Find out about the army, navy or air force during World War II. What were their uniforms like? What vehicles, planes or ships did they use? Your child could research using books or the internet and create paintings and drawings of people, vehicles, planes and ships from World War II.