

# **Robin Class**

## **‘Child of War’**

### **Activities all about the Second World War**



## Second World War word search

e a l l i e s n a z i x  
r e l t i h g t n s s o  
b l u x h s k s j n o o  
o l s c a k a u y r l s  
p i i o a n n a n e d n  
a h x q g v n c a n i o  
t c a n a w e o m o e i  
s r o q s e f l r s r t  
e u w n m j r o e i o a  
g h z m a q a h g r w r  
z c p i s w n j k p j b  
i o c s k m k g x r n m

Hitler

Germany

gas mask

evacuee

Allies

Jew

Gestapo

Holocaust

Axis

Anne Frank

rations

prisoner

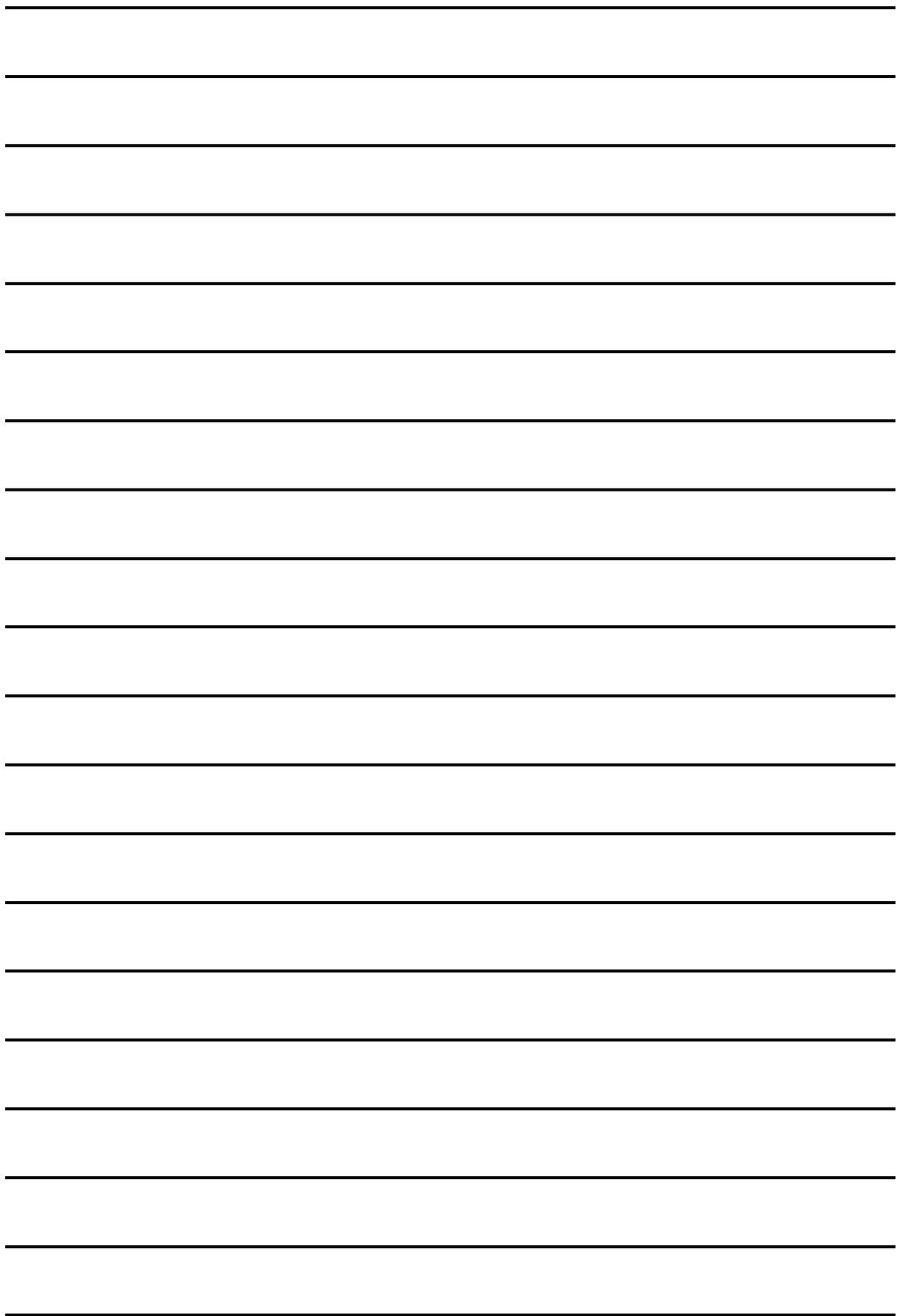
Nazi

Churchill

soldier

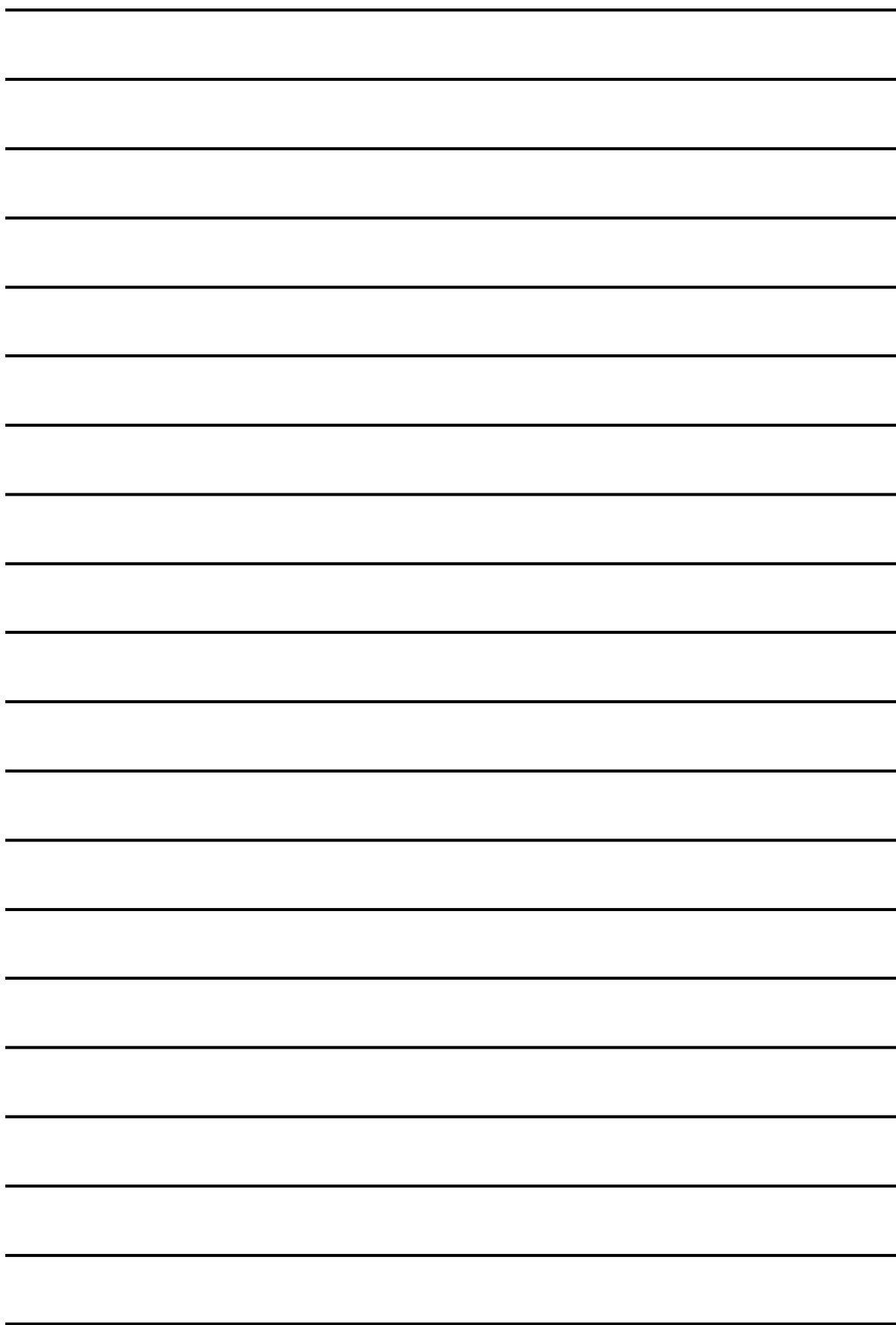
Use descriptive language to tell us what you see.





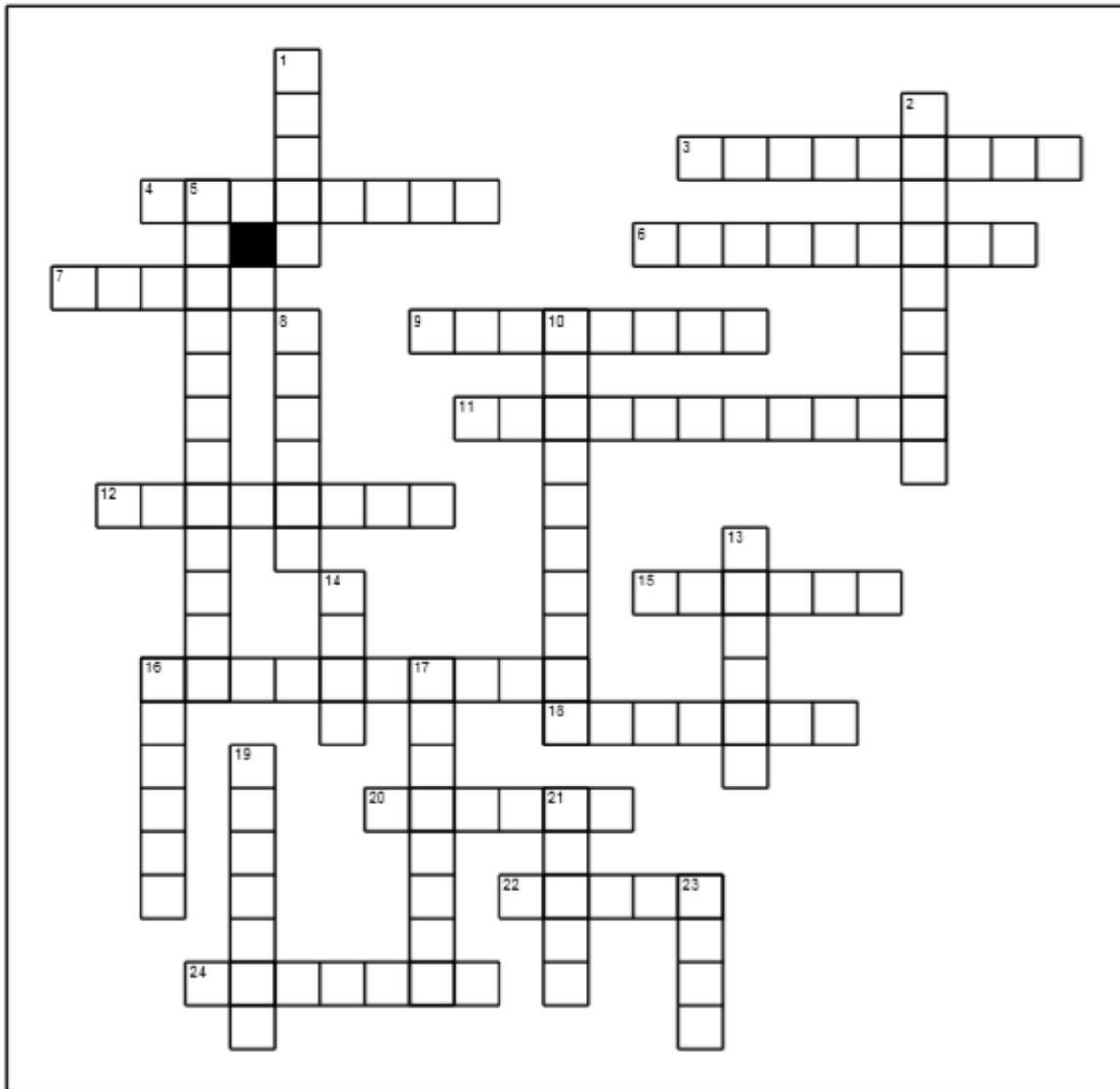
Can you describe the differences?







# WWII Crossword



## **Across**

3. German air force
4. British fighter aircraft
6. British Prime Minister during most of World War II
7. 8th May 1945 - Victory in Europe celebrated
9. Nazi symbol
11. British Prime Minister at the start of the war
12. type of bomb shelter built in a house. Could be used as a table.
15. German chancellor during World War II
16. communicating to influence people
18. British troops were evacuated from here in 1940
20. Capital of Germany
22. an Axis country in the far east
24. the main Axis country in Europe

## **Down**

1. heavy bombing by German planes
2. this allowed you only a certain amount of different foods each week.
5. This American base was attacked by the Japanese in Dec 1941
8. Country invaded by Germany on 22nd June 1941
10. Important battle fought in Russia (1942-3)
13. Russian leader during World War II
14. The allies land in Normandy, France
16. The invasion of this country started the war
17. type of bomb shelter often made in gardens
19. someone (usually a child) sent from a city to the countryside to escape the bombing
21. an Axis country in southern Europe. Changed sides in 1943.
23. German political party

Another word search!



Hitler

Churchill

evacuee

blitz

Anderson

rationing

Poland

Chamberlain

Japan

Germany

DDay

Italy

VEDay

Morrison

Spitfire

Russia

Berlin

Dunkirk

Luftwaffe

Pearl Harbour

propaganda

Nazi

swastika

Stalin

Stalingrad

# Food Rationing

Match the pictures to the right descriptions about rationing.  
Fill in the blanks using the words at the bottom to help you.



This woman is buying her weekly ration of \_\_\_\_\_. Each person was only allowed about 90 grams! If you wanted to buy a bar of chocolate that weighed more than that, you'd have had to save up your ration coupons.

Supermarkets didn't exist in the 1940s. People had to go to different shops and ask the shopkeeper for the thing that they wanted. This woman is in a grocer's shop. Can you spot the box of dried eggs? Circle it with a red pencil.



People were asked to save leftover food so that it could be used as food for \_\_\_\_\_ and other animals. It was collected in big bins.



Food had to be rationed during the war and people had to get their \_\_\_\_\_ stamped by the shopkeeper.



Everyone was asked to grow as much food as possible, and every bit of space was used. These girls are growing \_\_\_\_\_ in their school grounds!



ration books

chocolate

vegetables

pigs

# Food Rationing



Food had to be rationed during the war and people had to get their ration book stamped by the shopkeeper. Why do you think this was?

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Supermarkets didn't exist in the 1940s. People had to go to different shops and ask the shopkeeper for the thing that they wanted. Why do you think they had to register with these shops?

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People were asked to save leftover food, which was collected in big bins. Why do you think this was? Look at the photograph for clues.

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This woman is buying her weekly ration of chocolate. Each person was only allowed about 90 grams! What if she had wanted more? What would she have had to do?

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# VE Day

## What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day, and is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of the fighting in Europe.

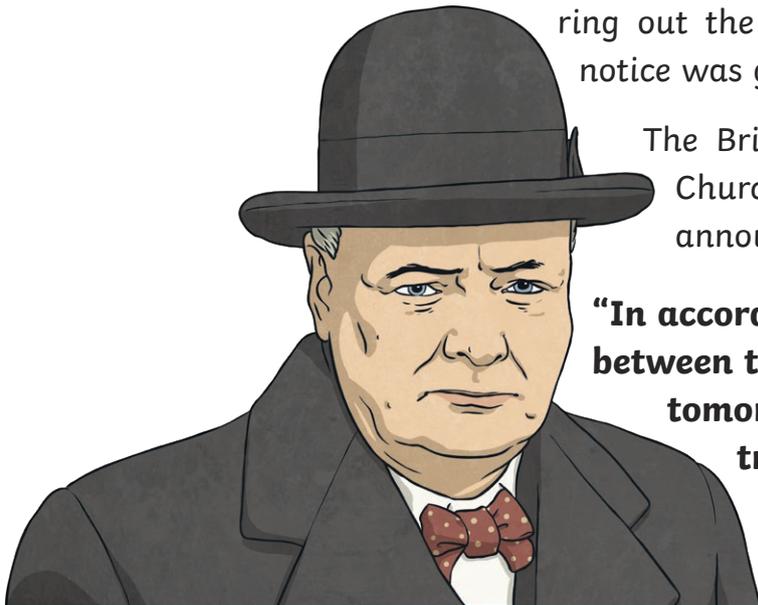


## How did it happen?

In April 1945, Hitler died. This meant that the Germans had to surrender their part in WWII to the Allies. The German President of the Third Reich, Grand Admiral Donitz, gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American army Head Quarters in France. Here, Jodl surrendered to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

## The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news! Bell ringers in churches around the country were ready to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.



The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, made the following announcement at 19:40, 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**“In accordance with arrangements between three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday.”**



## The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



The three great powers were:

- The British Empire
- Soviet Union (Russia)
- US

### Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They had street parties, neighbours shared food, and listened to the radio news programmes.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked in the huge crowds in London!

Churchill told the crowds,  
“This is your victory!”

### The End of the VE Day

Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time in six years since the war began, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of victory, above St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.

### A Special Celebration

To celebrate 75 years since the original VE Day, the May Day bank Holiday has been moved for the second time in history. Although it’s usually on a Monday, this year, the May Day Bank holiday will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to coincide with the anniversary of VE Day.



Buglers have been invited to play The Last Post and Reveille from their homes at 2:55 p.m. This will be followed by a 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War II' at 3:00 p.m. Here, people at home can raise a drink of their choice and say the following:

**"To those who gave so much, we thank you."**

The thought is that as a nation, the UK will toast their remembrance, together.

**Bugler:** Someone that plays the bugle – a horn-like instrument used by soldiers to send signals and orders.



# Questions

1. What does VE day stand for?

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2. Where were the American Army Headquarters? Tick **one**.

- America
- France
- Germany
- The Soviet Union

3. What happened at 19:40 on 7<sup>th</sup> May?

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4. Read the '**A Special Celebration**' paragraph.

What has happened for the second time in history?

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5. When will buglers be playing the Last Post and the Reveille? Tick **one**.

- 3:55 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m.
- 2:55 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m.

6. How do you think the people felt when they heard the news? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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7. Why do you think the King and Queen appeared so many times on the balcony?

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8. Why do you think Buckingham Palace had not been lit for 6 years?

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# Answers

1. What does VE day stand for?

**VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day.**

2. Where were the American Army Headquarters? Tick **one**.

- America
- France**
- Germany
- The Soviet Union

3. What happened at 19:40 on 7<sup>th</sup> May?

**Winston Churchill made the announcement for VE Day.**

4. Read the 'A Special Celebration' paragraph.

What has happened for the second time in history?

**The May Day Bank Holiday has been moved.**

5. When will buglers be playing the Last Post and the Reveille? Tick **one**.

- 3:55 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m.
- 2:55 p.m.**
- 7:30 p.m.

6. How do you think the people felt when they heard the news? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think the people felt a mixture of things when the news was announced. I think they felt relieved and happy as they cheered and had parties in the street. However, I also think many people will have felt sad because a lot of people died in the war.**

7. Why do you think the King and Queen appeared so many times on the balcony?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think the King and Queen appeared so many times on the balcony so they could be there for the people of England. They wanted to share in the good feeling and be part of the celebrations.**

8. Why do you think Buckingham Palace had not been lit for 6 years?

**Pupil's own response, that may refer to their own knowledge of the blitz, or their own suggestions.**

# VE Day

## What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day and is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was the end of six years of suffering, misery and courage during the Second World War in Europe. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of warfare in Europe.

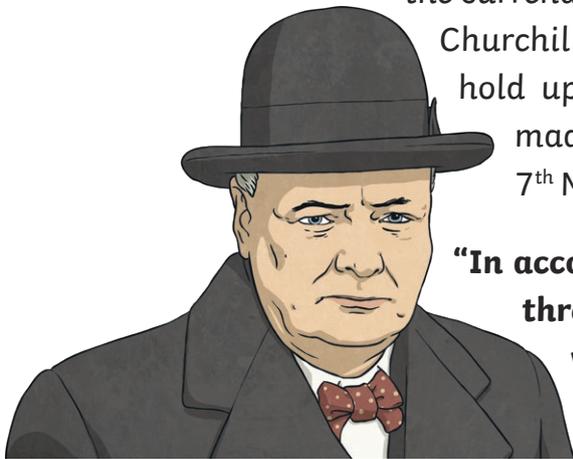
## How did it happen?

On the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1945, following Hitler's death in the April, the German President of the Third Reich, Grand Admiral Donitz, gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American Head Quarters based in France. Jodl surrendered on behalf of the Germans, to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

## The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news. Although no official announcement had been made, bell ringers in the churches around the country were on standby to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.

Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Russians, was taking his time to announce the surrender, but the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, did not want to give Stalin the chance to hold up what everyone already knew! Churchill made the following announcement at 19:40, 7<sup>th</sup> May.



**“In accordance with arrangements between three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday.”**



## The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



### Did you know ...?

The three great powers were The British Empire, the US and the Soviet Union, now known as Russia.

Although everyone was pleased the war in Europe had ended, for many the celebrations would have been a sad reminder of the loss of many loved ones. They would have been fighting abroad, caught by the enemy or died in air raids attacks. This meant that many did not completely feel the lasting joy of the time.

### Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They organised street parties where neighbours shared food, which was still rationed, and listened to the radio news broadcasts.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked amongst the crowds! Churchill told the crowds, “This is your victory!”

Churchill spoke to the nation, reminding them that although Japan still had to be defeated, and the war was not yet over, for now Great Britain “May allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing. God Save the King!”

### The End of the VE Day

At 21:00, King George VI made a final broadcast to the nation. Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time since the start of the war, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of victory, above St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.

### A Special Celebration

To celebrate 75 years since the original VE Day, the May Day bank Holiday has been moved for the second time in history. Although it’s usually on a Monday, this year, the May Day Bank holiday will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to coincide with the anniversary of VE Day.

Buglers have been invited to play The Last Post and Reveille from their homes at 2:55 p.m. This will be followed by a 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War II' at 3:00 p.m. Here, people at home can raise a drink of their choice and say the following:

**"To those who gave so much, we thank you."**

The thought is that as a nation, the UK will toast their remembrance, together.

**Bugler:** Someone that plays the bugle – a horn-like instrument used by soldiers to send signals and orders.



# Questions

1. What date is VE Day?

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2. VE day stands for...? Tick **one**.

- Victory and Excellence Day  
 Victory in Europe Day  
 Vanquish in Europe Day  
 Very Excellent Day

3. What did General Jodl do?

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4. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Hitler died in May 1945.		
Grand Admiral Donitz gave the order to surrender.		
The 'three great powers' were The British, Empire the Soviet Union and the US.		
Half a million homes were destroyed in Britain during the war.		

5. How was a sign of victory made above St Paul's Cathedral?

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6. What did Stalin do, and how did this affect Britain?

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7. In detail, explain what VE day ended.

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8. Name one of the ways VE Day is celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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9. Why do you think the author has used an exclamation mark when commenting on the princesses walking around the crowds in London? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. What date is VE Day?

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

2. VE day stands for...? Tick **one**.

- Victory and Excellence Day  
 **Victory in Europe Day**  
 Vanquish in Europe Day  
 Very Excellent Day

3. What did General Jodl do?

**General Jodl went to the Head Quarters based in France. He surrendered on behalf of the Germans to the Western and Russian Officers and agreed to all their demands.**

4. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Hitler died in May 1945.		✓
Grand Admiral Donitz gave the order to surrender.	✓	
The 'three great powers' were The British, Empire the Soviet Union and the US.	✓	
Half a million homes were destroyed in Britain during the war.	✓	

5. How was a sign of victory made above St Paul's Cathedral?

**Lights were used to make the sign of victory above St Paul's Cathedral.**

6. What did Stalin do, and how did this affect Britain?

**Stalin took his time announcing the surrender. This meant Churchill could not let Britain know officially that there was an end of the war in Europe.**

7. In detail, explain what VE day ended.

**Answers will vary, based on: VE Day ended six years of suffering, misery and courage during the Second World War in Europe/ ended warfare in Europe.**

8. Name one of the ways VE Day is celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Accept any of the following:**

- **The May Day Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday to Friday.**
- **Buglers will play The Last Post and Reveille at 2:55 p.m.**
- **People will have a toast to the heroes of World War II**

9. Why do you think the author has used an exclamation mark when commenting on the princesses walking around the crowds in London? Explain your answer.

**Answers will vary, but should suggest the princesses walking among the crowds being unusual.**

# The Blitz in London

## What Was the Blitz?

The Blitz was a quick and surprise attack during the Second World War. 'Blitz' is the German word for lightning. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940, the blitz began in London in an attack that lasted 12 hours. London was bombed every day and night (except for one) for 11 weeks.

## Why Was London Bombed?

The Germans wanted to damage industrial areas, like factories and ports, to make it harder for the British to move weapons to fight them.

London was bombed because it was the capital of England, the largest city and home to the docklands. The docklands were important to the war effort because materials to make weapons and bombs were moved through here. This made them a target for German planes.

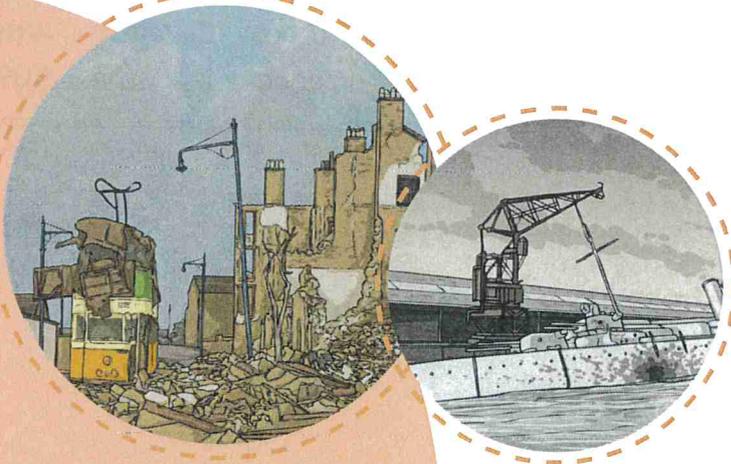
London was also a target because the Germans wanted to break the 'spirit' of the British and thought attacking England in its capital would do that.

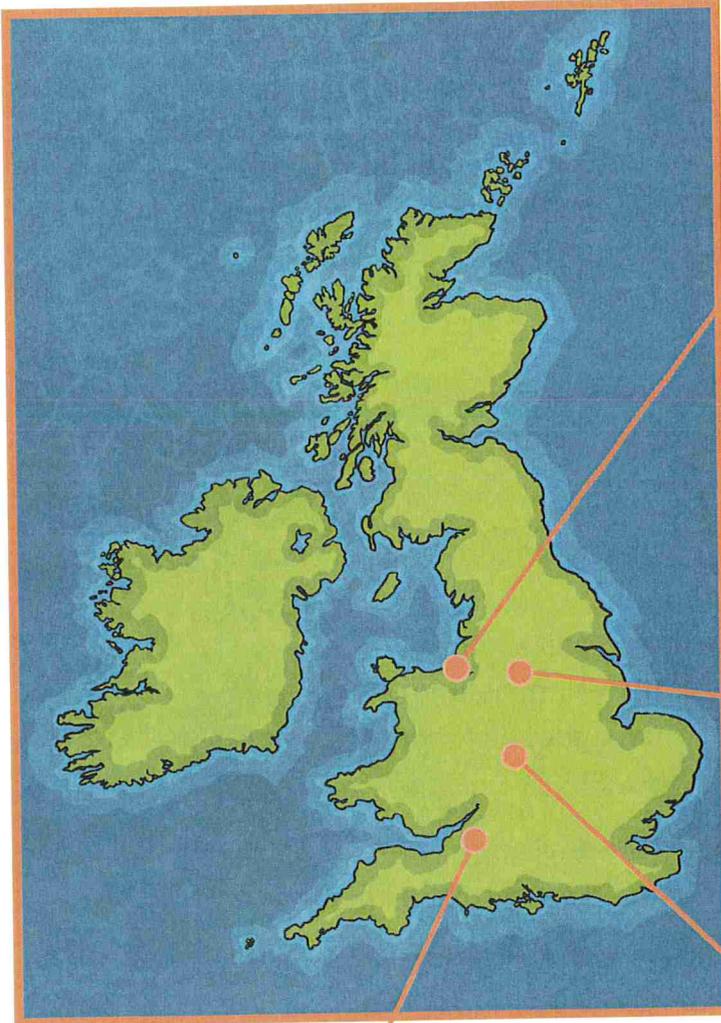
## Places in England bombed during the Second World War:

Although London was bombed more often than anywhere else in England, the whole country was under attack during the Blitz.

### Did You Know...?

Buckingham Palace was hit by a bomb on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1940.





### Liverpool

Liverpool was one of the most heavily bombed areas outside of London. This was because its port was important to Britain – most of the material used to make weapons was brought through Liverpool's dock.

### Sheffield

Sheffield was an important city during the war as the Steelworks there made parts for aircrafts, tanks and weapons. It was bombed many times, but attacks on 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December alone killed 750 people.

### Coventry

One of the worst single attacks was in Coventry, where 4,330 homes were destroyed and 554 people were killed in one night. Much of Coventry was destroyed by the 509 bombers that attacked here.

### Bristol

The Germans targeted Bristol to attack their docks and aircraft factories. Many of the city's historic buildings were destroyed and 175 unexploded bombs were left behind.

# Questions

1. What was the Blitz? Tick **one**.

- a German plane
- a surprise attack from the Second World War
- a British plane
- a German bomb

2. When did the Blitz begin in London?

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3. Where did the Germans want to damage? Tick **two**.

- factories
- rivers
- ports
- countryside

4. Which English city was bombed the most? Tick **one**.

- Liverpool
- London
- Coventry
- Sheffield

5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Sheffield dock was important to the war.		
Most of the material used to make weapons was brought through the dock in Liverpool.		
175 unexploded bombs were left in Bristol.		
554 homes were destroyed in Coventry.		

6. When was Buckingham Palace hit by a bomb?

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7. Explain in your own words why the Germans wanted to bomb London.

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# Answers

1. What was the Blitz? Tick **one**.

- a German plane
- a surprise attack from the Second World War**
- a British plane
- a German bomb

2. When did the Blitz begin in London?

**The Blitz began in London on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940.**

3. Where did the Germans want to damage? Tick **two**.

- factories**
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4. Which English city was bombed the most? Tick **one**.

- Liverpool
- London**
- Coventry
- Sheffield

5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Sheffield dock was important to the war.		✓
Most of the material used to make weapons was brought through the dock in Liverpool.	✓	
175 unexploded bombs were left in Bristol.	✓	
554 homes were destroyed in Coventry.		✓

6. When was Buckingham Palace hit by a bomb?

**Buckingham Palace was hit by a bomb on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1940.**

7. Explain in your own words why the Germans wanted to bomb London.

**Pupil's own response that refer to the following:**

- **London was the capital and would break the spirit of the British;**
- **The importance of the London Docklands to the war effort – without it, it would have been difficult to move weapons and bombs.**

# The Blitz in London

## What Was the Blitz?

The Blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the Second World War. 'Blitzkrieg' is a German word meaning 'lightning war'. The Blitz began in London on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940 in an attack that lasted 12 hours. London was bombed every day and night (except for one) for 11 weeks, but the Blitz attack on Britain didn't end until May 1941.

## Why Was London Bombed?

The German air force, called the Luftwaffe, dropped bombs to damage industrial areas, like factories and ports, to make it harder for the British to move weapons to fight them.

### Did You Know...?

Over 180 000 Londoners regularly sheltered from the bombs in the London underground.

London was bombed because it was the largest English city and home to the docklands. The docklands were important to the war effort because materials to make weapons and bombs were moved through there.



The Luftwaffe also wanted to attack civilian areas - a civilian is a person who is not in the armed forces. This also made London a target because

the Germans wanted to break the 'spirit' of the British by destroying its capital. Thousands of homes were destroyed and many people were left homeless.

## Places in England bombed during the Second World War:

Although London was bombed more often than anywhere else in England, the whole country was under attack during the Blitz.



### Liverpool

Liverpool was one of the most heavily bombed areas outside of London. This was because its port was important to Britain – most of the material used to make weapons was brought through Liverpool's dock.

### Sheffield

Sheffield was an important city during the war as the Steelworks there made parts for aircrafts, tanks and weapons. The 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December were the worst attacks, killing 750 people.

### Coventry

One of the worst single attacks was in Coventry where 4,330 homes were destroyed and 554 people were killed in one night. Much of Coventry was destroyed by the 509 bombers that attacked here.

### Bristol

The Germans targeted Bristol to attack their docks and aircraft factories. Many of the city's historic buildings were destroyed and 175 unexploded bombs were left behind.

# Questions

1. What was the Blitz?

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2. When did the Blitz begin? Tick **one**.

- 8<sup>th</sup> September 1940
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940
- 5<sup>th</sup> September 1941
- 8<sup>th</sup> September 1941

3. How long did the first Blitz attack last? Tick **one**.

- 3 hours
- 11 weeks
- 12 hours
- 120 minutes

4. Complete the sentence below:

The German air force called the \_\_\_\_\_, dropped bombs to damage industrial areas; like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, to make it harder for the British to move \_\_\_\_\_ to fight them.

5. What is a civilian?

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6. Where did Londoners shelter from the bombs?

- Buckingham Palace
- under Tower Bridge
- in the London Underground
- Trafalgar Square

7. Why did the Germans want to bomb industrial areas? Explain in your own words.

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8. Based on what you know about the other cities that were bombed by the Germans, can you guess why Coventry might have been targeted?

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# Answers

1. What was the Blitz?

**The Blitz was a sudden and quick attack during the second world war where bombs were dropped on places in the UK.**

2. When did the Blitz begin? Tick **one**.

- 8<sup>th</sup> September 1940
- 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940**
- 5<sup>th</sup> September 1941
- 8<sup>th</sup> September 1941

3. How long did the first Blitz attack last? Tick **one**.

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4. Complete the sentence below:

The German air force called the **Luftwaffe**, dropped bombs to damage industrial areas, like **factories** and **ports**, to make it harder for the British to move **weapons** to fight them.

5. What is a civilian?

**A civilian is a person who is not in the armed forces.**

6. Where did Londoners shelter from the bombs?

- Buckingham Palace
- under Tower Bridge
- in the London Underground**
- Trafalgar Square

7. Why did the Germans want to bomb industrial areas? Explain in your own words.

**The Germans wanted to bomb industrial areas in Britain so they could damage ports or factories. They wanted to damage them because factories were vital to the war effort as they were used to make weapons, and ports were used to transport materials to make weapons, without them, it would have been much more difficult to make weapons and fight the war.**

8. Based on what you know about the other cities that were bombed by the Germans, can you guess why Coventry might have been targeted?

**Pupil's own response, but answers should refer to Coventry having factories or an industry used in the war as the text says these places were targeted.**