

VE DAY CELEBRATING IN LOCKDOWN

FRIDAY 8th May marked 75 years since VE Day, when World War Two ended in Europe.

VE Day – or Victory in Europe Day – was the moment when six years of fighting in Europe finally ended. On 8th May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Nazi Germany had surrendered.

Celebrations began straight away throughout Britain, with more than one million people partying in the streets. King George VI appeared on the Buckingham Palace balcony with the prime minister. Princess Elizabeth (far left) was there too (now our Queen) – aged only 19.

This year, many street parties, parades and concerts had been planned to mark the 75th anniversary. Sadly, they couldn't go ahead because of the coronavirus, but don't worry, it was still possible to celebrate in lockdown.

The Queen delivered a special television message from Windsor Castle at 9pm – at the exact moment when her father, King George VI, spoke to the nation on the radio, back in 1945.

Many people decorated their homes in red, white and blue, and held 'stay-at-home street parties'.

A two-minute silence took place at 11am. Then, at 3pm, there was The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2. People across the country stood up and raised a glass of their favourite drink while saying the following toast: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."



The Red Arrows flew over Buckingham Palace

Questions on: 'Big News'

1) What happened on VE Day?

- ☐ The Second World War ended
- ☐ World War Two ended in Europe
- ☐ UK soldiers landed in France to free the country from German rule

2) Who was the UK prime minister at the end of the Second World War?

- ☐ George VI
- ☐ Sir Winston Churchill
- ☐ Boris Johnson

3) What did the Queen do on VE Day in 1945, and what was her title then?

4) The Queen is 94 now. What did she do on VE Day in 2020?

5) What **two** things usually happen when you give a **toast**?

1.
2.

6) Find and copy the words that are part of this toast.

7) Look at the planned celebrations. At what time did these things happen?

- _____ – A two-minute silence
- _____ – Toast to the Heroes of WW2
- _____ – Broadcast from the Queen

8) Do you think VE Day should be a sad day, when we remember all the people who have died, or a happy day, when we celebrate the end of the war?

