VE DAY

Topic Lesson

Thursday 7th May 2020

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day

Second World War

Britain had been at war since September 1939. The war had caused great hardships for the entire country.

Cities, such as Coventry, London and Plymouth were badly bombed and many were killed. Buildings were destroyed and people were left homeless.

384,000 British soldiers were killed and many more were wounded.

It was usually impossible for soldiers to visit home due to the war.

Food was rationed; before the war, Britain imported lots of its food from abroad. With German submarines manning the seas, importing food was too risky.

The End of War

By the end of April 1945, the leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini and the leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, were dead. Germany was in ruins.

On 7th May, at 2.41 a.m., in Reims in France, Germany surrendered. This meant that the war in Europe was over.

The News Spreads

Before long, the exciting news spread that the war in Europe was over. People ran out on the streets to celebrate and church bells were rung to spread the news.

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

To listen to Churchill's speech click here

VE Day

The following day was one of great celebration. Churchill made a speech in which he said: ‘My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole.’

Communities had street parties and churches held services of thanksgiving.

For more information on VE day click here

VE Day Challenges

On the following slides, there are some challenges related to VE day. Choose a challenge and complete it. You may wish to complete more than one challenge or complete some with your family on Friday 8th which is the 75th anniversary of VE day. Don't forget to send some pictures.

Challenge 1

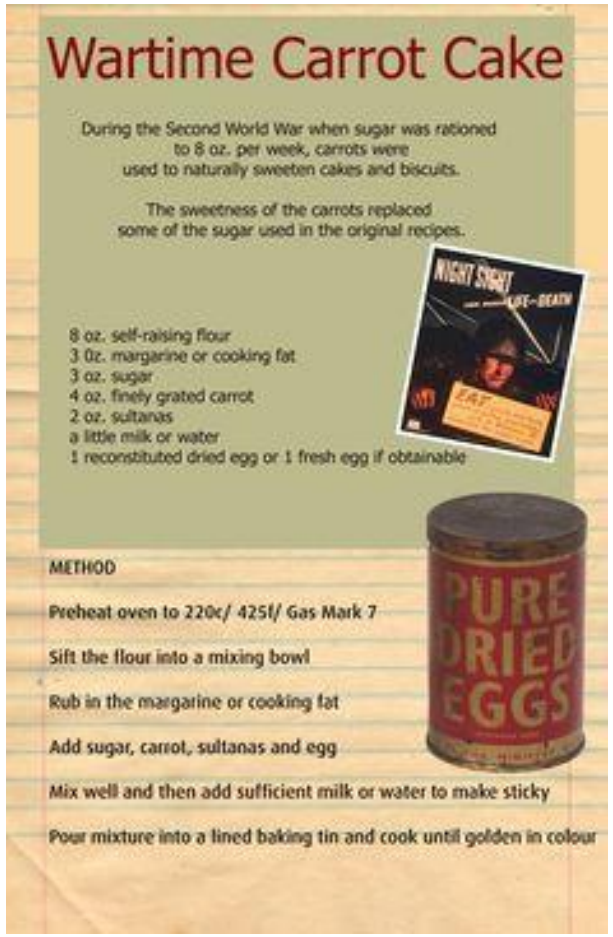
Make bunting in red, white and blue and decorate your house.

Challenge 2

Learn to sing ‘We’ll meet again’ by Vera Lynn

We’ll meet again

Challenge 3



Wartime Carrot Cake

During the Second World War when sugar was rationed to 8 oz. per week, carrots were used to naturally sweeten cakes and biscuits.

The sweetness of the carrots replaced some of the sugar used in the original recipes.

8 oz. self-raising flour
3 0z. margarine or cooking fat
3 oz. sugar
4 oz. finely grated carrot
2 oz. sultanas
a little milk or water
1 reconstituted dried egg or 1 fresh egg if obtainable

METHOD

Preheat oven to 220c/ 425f/ Gas Mark 7

Sift the flour into a mixing bowl

Rub in the margarine or cooking fat

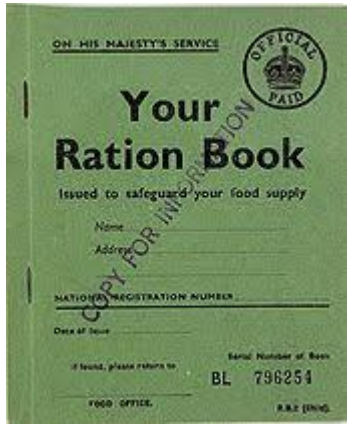
Add sugar, carrot, sultanas and egg

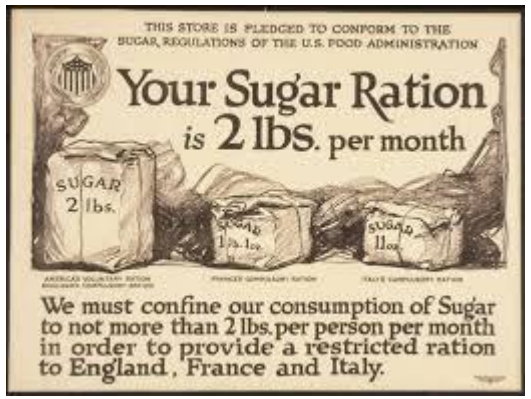
Mix well and then add sufficient milk or water to make sticky

Pour mixture into a lined baking tin and cook until golden in colour

Make some party food for a VE Day picnic. Use the wartime carrot cake recipe for an extra challenge.

Challenge 4





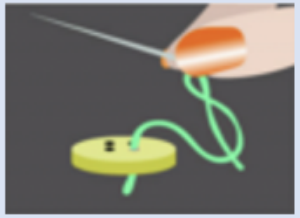
Find out about rationing:

- What was rationing?
- What were ration books?
- Why were there different colour ration books?
- Why did the government issue ration books?
- How did rationing work?
- When was rationing introduced?
- Was it only food that was rationed?
- When did food rationing stop?

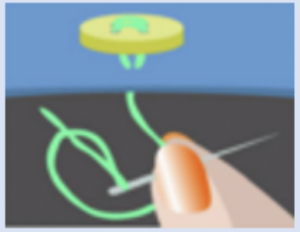
Challenge 5

Draw or paint Beenham war memorial. You could visit the memorial outside the church on your daily walk and take a photograph or copy it from this picture.

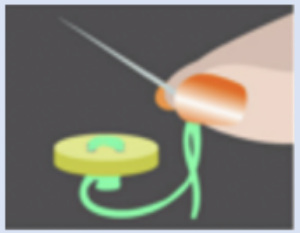
Challenge 6



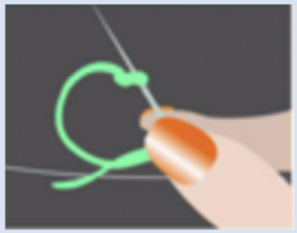
1. Thread your needle and knot the end. Push the threaded needle up through the fabric and the back of one of the holes in your button. Pull until the knot reaches the back of the fabric.



2. Push the needle through the second hole from the front of the button to the back. Pull excess thread through, but don't tug too tight as you sew through the holes. Repeat the process by going up through the third hole and down the fourth.



3. Repeat the movement through all four holes several times. Then make a shank to hold the button more securely.



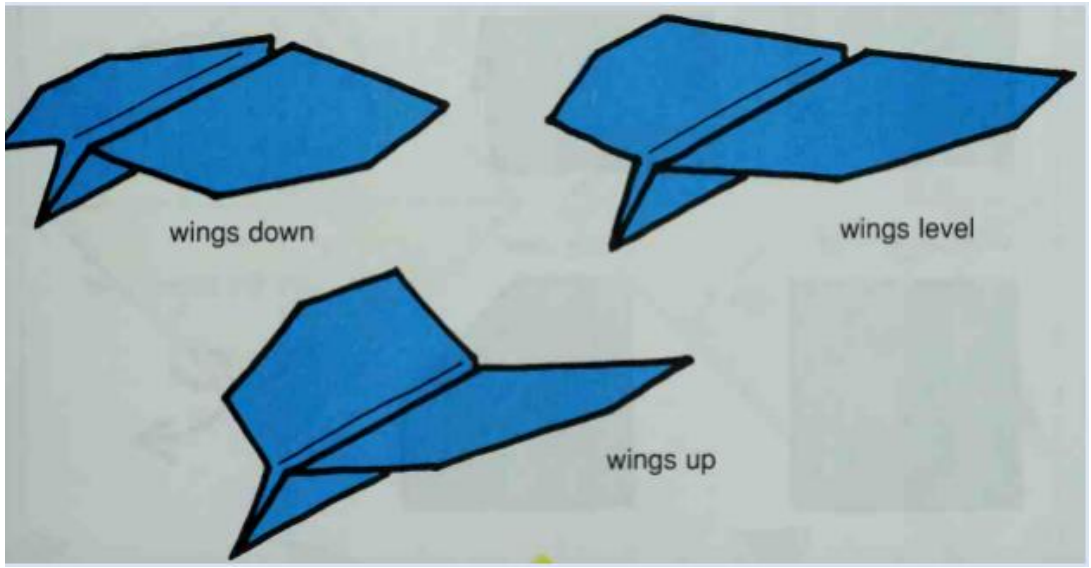
4. To finish: On the wrong side, push the needle and thread through the existing stitches to secure. Remove the needle and tie off the thread. Then cut off the excess.

During the war, clothes were also rationed and it was necessary to be resourceful and mend clothes. In addition, tailors and seamstresses played a key role in British society and were relied on to make children's clothes out of old skirts and trousers.

Sewing a button was an essential sewing skill which wartime children learned and remains a good life skill 75 years after VE Day.

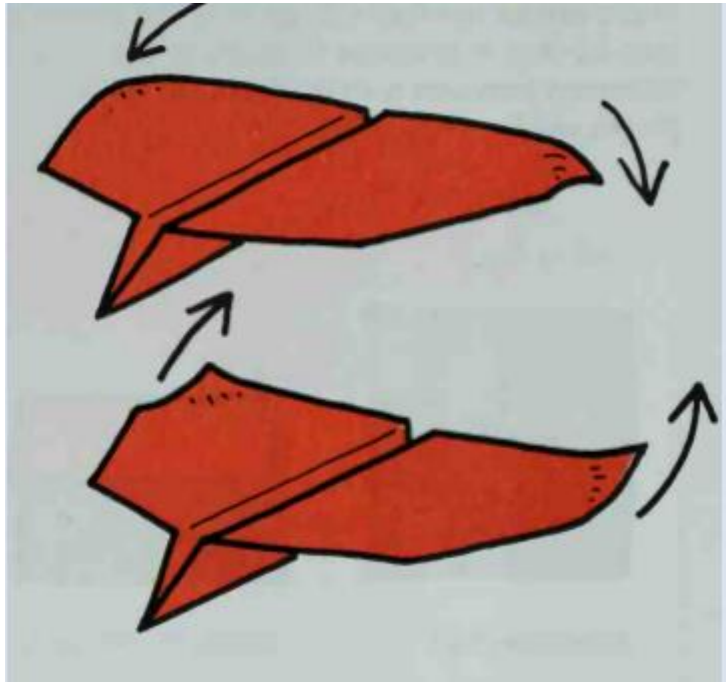
Follow the instructions to sew on a button.

Challenge 7



Find out how the shape of a wing can change a planes direction.

- Make a paper aeroplane
- What happens when you change the wings?



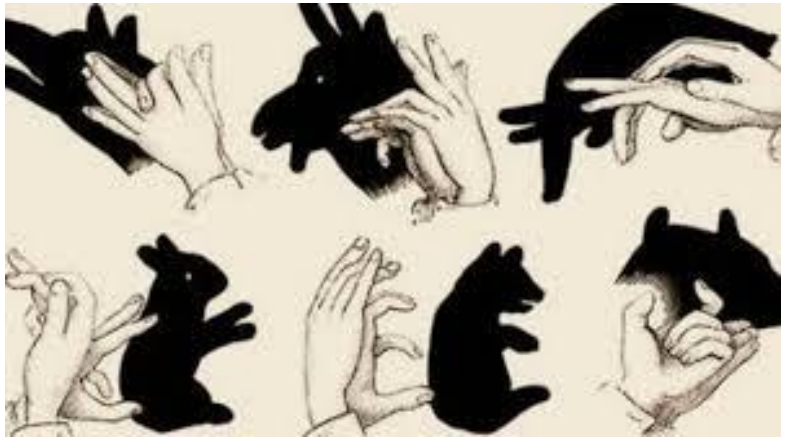
Challenge 8

During the war, everyone had to cover their windows and doors at night to prevent light from escaping. If light did escape, enemy aircraft were able to see towns and cities during their bombing raids.

During the war, a popular past-time in the evenings was to make shadow animals.

How many can you make?

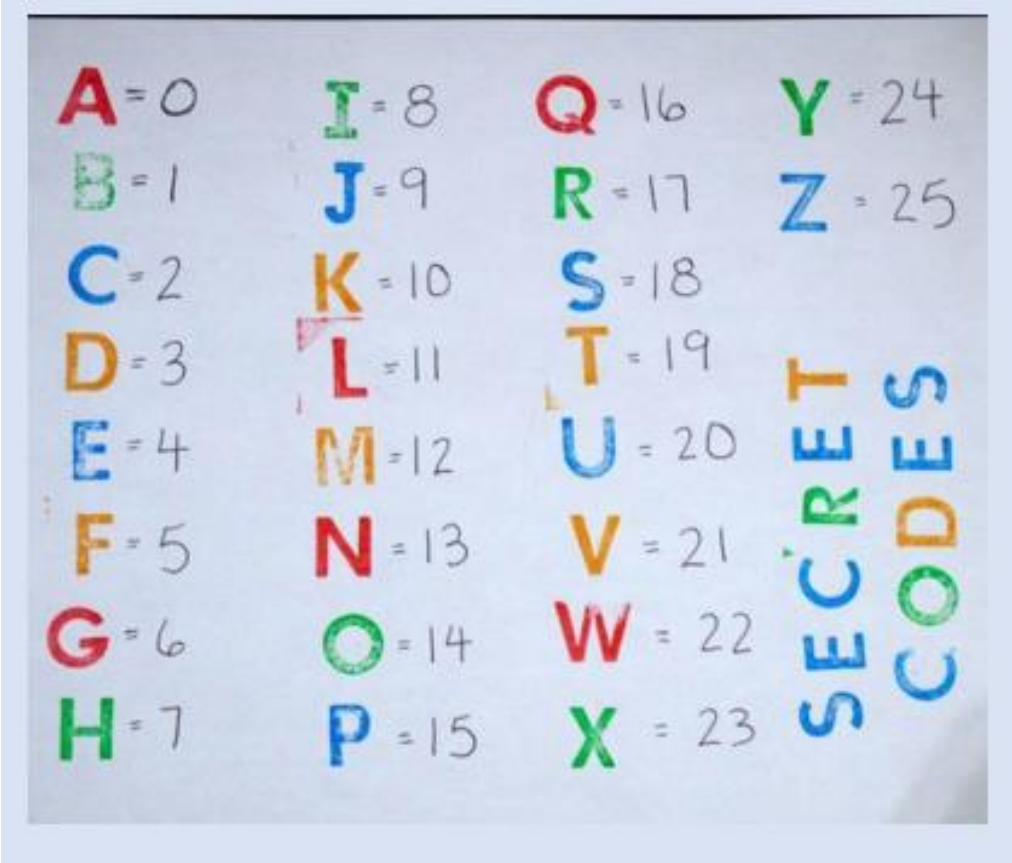
All you need is a torch, a very dark room and flexible fingers!



Challenge 9

LS Lowry (1887-1976) painted this picture of the famous street parties that took place all over the country for VE Day celebrations in 1945. Sit in your front garden and imagine you and your neighbours are having a street party, draw what your road would look like having a street party.

Challenge 10



Cracking codes and unravelling the true meaning of secret messages involves loads of maths, from simple addition and subtraction, to data handling and logical thinking. In fact, some of the most famous code breakers in history have been mathematicians who have been able to use quite simple maths to uncovered plots, identify traitors and influence battles. One of the most famous codebreakers during WW2 was Alan Turing. Write a secret message using this code.

Watch this clip to find out more about coding. Coding

Challenge 11

This war medal is awarded to all full-time personnel of the armed forces between 1939 and 1945. Design your own VE Day medal. Think carefully about the colours and pictures you use.

Challenge 12

Click here to watch the VE Day song by Horrible Histories. Join in with the song and dancing.

Have fun!

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations
STAY AT HOME STREET PARTY !
Friday 8th May 2020
Commemorate the end of WW2 by celebrating with your family & neighbours.
Decorate your house in red, white & blue and enjoy a picnic in your front garden.
75
VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
8-10 MAY 2020
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
STAY HOME SAVE LIVES

VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY

75 YEARS
VE
DAY
1945
2020