

History

What were we fighting for in WWII?

Review your knowledge organiser.

Highlight what we have learnt so far.



Using your texts from reading:

we
do

Give **5** facts about D-Day

Explain what happened in Europe after D-Day.

Explain when Germany surrendered.

Explain what VE Day is.



LO: to explain how World War 2 ended.

Today we are going to write a newspaper article explaining how World War 2 ended.

Watch the video clips and note down any additional information that you find out.

 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-d-day/zf49rj6>

 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

**I
do**

Headline	
Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who?• What?• Where?• When?• Why?	
Paragraph 1: Why did the War start?	

**we
do**

Paragraph 4: VE Day	
Conclusion:	



Complete your newspaper planning sheet.

Use the reading texts from this week, your history book and notes from the video to gather all the information you need.

I
do

Peace! It's over.

The 8th May 1945 will never be forgotten. After 6 long years, the streets of England were full once again with life as people sang, danced and cheered to celebrate the end of World War 2: Germany has finally surrendered and the war in Europe is over. But how did the Allies manage to defeat Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party?

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After World War 1, Germany.....

Hitler and the Nazi's promised the German citizens.....

When Germany invaded Poland on the 1st September, 1939.....



Write up your newspaper article.

Remember:

- KS2 punctuation
- Formal Tone
- Direct/indirect speech
- Fronted adverbials
- Vary your sentence structure



Intelligent postcards
Allied intelligence used postcards of Normandy, plus maps, aerial photographs, and information from spies, to build up a picture of the coastline before invasion.



"Sword" beach

This intelligence map details what the soldiers would encounter as they waded ashore. "Sword" (the most eastern beach), "Juno", and "Gold" were stormed by the British and Canadian forces; western "Omaha" and "Utah" by the US.

D-Day invasion

In the early morning of 6 June 1944 (D-Day), Operation Overlord – the Allied invasion of France – took place on Normandy beaches after years of planning. More than 150,000 US, British, and Canadian soldiers were ferried across the English Channel to establish five beachheads (shorelines captured from the enemy). The Germans were expecting an invasion further to the east and had set up a defence there. By nightfall, the beachheads were secure. The liberation of German-occupied Europe had begun.

"Omaha" invasion

The most difficult landing site was "Omaha" beach, surrounded by high cliffs and with few routes inland. The US troops sustained 3,000 casualties but established a 3-km (2-mile) deep beachhead by nightfall.



Sky attack

Parachutists played an important role on D-Day. In the early hours, US Army paratroopers dropped behind "Utah" beach to secure vital positions. British paratroopers landed behind "Sword" beach and destroyed a German battery (gun site).



Mulberry harbours

"If we cannot capture a port we must take one with us," remarked a British officer. Two floating steel harbours (Mulberries) were built in Britain, towed across the Channel, and slotted together off "Gold" and "Omaha" beaches.

On the beach

The day after D-Day, trucks, tanks, and troops flooded in to the beaches. The first wave of soldiers made each beach as safe as possible from enemy attack. Then ships unloaded vast amounts of equipment.



Collapsible motorbikes

These were dropped behind enemy lines for landing airborne forces. The bikes had a range of 144 km (90 miles).



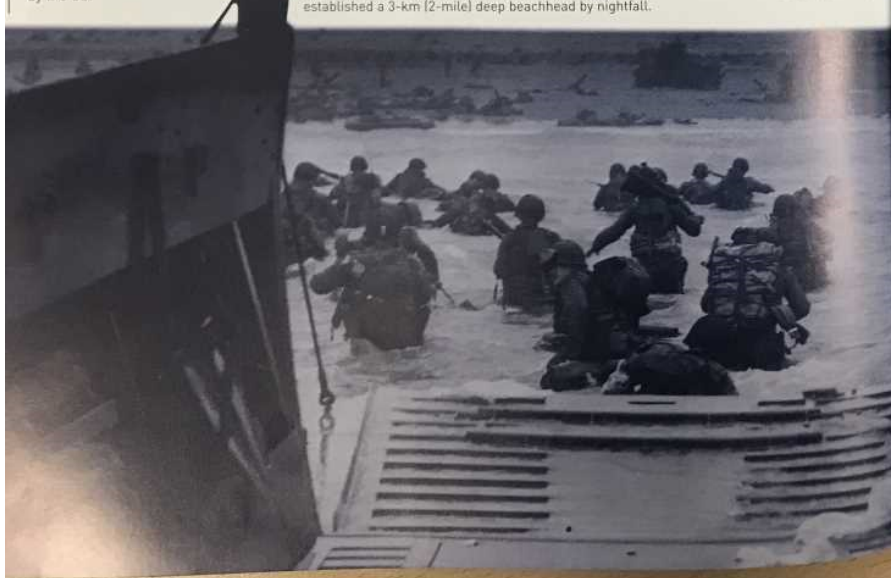
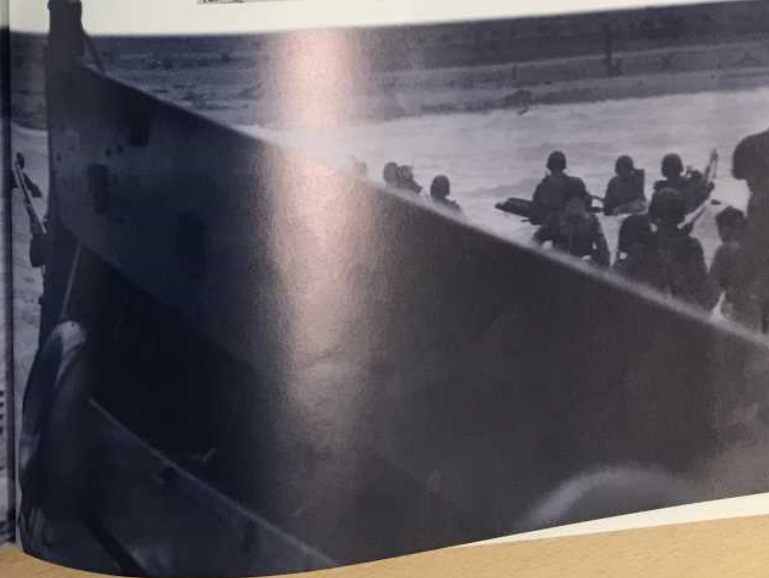
British Welbike motorcycle

Barrage balloons to protect supplies from overhead attacks



Explosive work

The Allies pressed inland, encountering snipers, tanks, and fortifications hidden in the hedgerows. Progress was slow, but they soon had a million men in France.



War ends in Europe

After D-Day, the Allies knew they could win the war. They had more soldiers, tanks, and aircraft than Germany. In western Europe, the Americans, British, and other Allies freed France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The Russians moved in from the east, freeing Poland. By April, 1945, they had reached Berlin. On 8 May, 1945, the war in Europe was over.



Secret weapons

Germany had secret weapons, such as V-1s, which were flying bombs. V-2s, like this one, were supersonic rockets. They came too late to change the war.



The French celebrate their freedom in 1944

Paris free

French troops fought alongside the Allied army. On 25 August, 1944, crowds cheered as French troops drove into Paris. The Germans had left. Soon afterwards, all of France was free.

This map shows how the Allies attacked from 1943 to 1945, moving towards Germany.

KEY:
Allied attacks



Russian Katyusha rocket launcher

Red rockets

Russia's Red Army fought across Poland and into Germany. Russian tanks, planes, and rockets destroyed German towns and villages. Many people fled west before the Red Army arrived.

German surrender

Russians were fighting in Berlin by January, 1945. Some Nazis still hoped for peace, but others fought on. On 30 April, Hitler killed himself in his bunker (underground base). The German army surrendered days later.



Battle of the Bulge

Bad weather in December, 1944, stopped Allied planes flying. German soldiers attacked in Belgium. They pushed into the Allied line, making a "bulge". Then Allied bombers got back in the air. The German attack in the west fizzled out.



US tank in the Battle of the Bulge

VE Day

People celebrated Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) on 8 May, 1945. They danced, sang, and cheered. People waved flags, and held street parties. They also remembered. Six long years of war had left many homeless, hurt, or dead.





Front page news in Britain

Victory

The Germans' unconditional surrender, on 7 May 1945 in Rheims, France, was witnessed by representatives from each Ally (Britain, the US, France, and the USSR). It was repeated in Berlin on 8 May – VE (Victory in Europe) Day. After the two atomic bombs, Japan surrendered

formally on USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945. After six years of war, the world was at last at peace.