



THE BEATLES STORY ONLINE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

LIVING THROUGH HISTORY - ENGLISH



Activity Name:

Living Through History

Curriculum Focus:

English/History

Age Phase:

7-11 (KS2)

Activity:

The Beatles were war babies and their childhood was affected by the consequences of war. On VE Day we remember the end of WW2 in Europe but also acknowledge that we are living through history with the global COVID-19 pandemic that is having a direct impact on families across the world.

Task:

Task 1: Send a letter/call a relative or neighbour who was alive during WWII.

Ask them the following:

What it was like living through WWII?

What is similar and what is different to what is happening in the world today?

How will you celebrate VE Day?

Task 2: Write a letter to your future self, and answer the following:

What do you think about what is happening in the world today?

Why has school closed?

What activities do you do each day?

What are you thankful for?

Is there anything you miss in particular?

Resources suggestions:

Pens, Pencils, Paper

Remembering VE Day 2020: 75 years since Victory in Europe

What is VE Day?

VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day during World War 2 when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe - 8th May 1945. Even though VE Day marked victory for Europe over Germany, it did not mark the end of World War Two, as fighting still continued in Japan until 15th August 1945.

The Beatles were all born during the Second World War.

Ringo Starr	7th July 1940
John Lennon	9th October 1940
Paul McCartney	18th June 1942
George Harrison	25th February 1943

The Second World War

The Second World War began in September 1939. In 1940 and 1941 Liverpool suffered hundreds of raids by German bombers. This became known as the Blitz, which is short for Blitzkrieg (lightening war).

Liverpool was heavily targeted as it was a major shipping port and naval base. It was also home to the Western Approaches Command, a strategic base for planning The Battle of the Atlantic. After London, Liverpool was the worst hit area in the country.

Celebration

After the announcement of Germany's surrender, Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared 8th May a public holiday and Victory in Europe (VE) Day was met with rejoice. People had parties and were dancing and singing in the streets.

The Beatles

The Beatles do not remember such times due to being so young, however, when growing up were impacted by the results of war. Even though the war eventually ended, it was not the end of hardship. Millions of people had lost loved ones who fought for the country and the nation had to rebuild due to bomb ruins.

Remembering

It is important to remember key turning points in history. During World War II around 75-80 million people died. Most of these died fighting on the front line, yet some were killed in prisoner camps and others were people who got caught in the crossfire. Remembering these times ensures these atrocities don't repeat themselves in the future.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Under normal circumstances, the VE day holiday would have formed part of a three-day weekend of commemorative events. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed plans. Social distancing is the new normality and people can only leave their houses for one form of exercise or to get essential shopping.

