

Plan a VE Day Party



Can you have a plan a party for the end of the week.

- What decorations would you have?
- What music would you play?
- What food would you serve?
- Would you have a cake?



What Was VE Day?

The Second World War ended on **8th May, 1945** in Europe when the German Army signed the **armistice**, surrendering to the allies. Britain had fought for **six** long years and **suffered** tremendously due to enemy bombing, rationing, loss of soldiers and the effects of the second total war.



When the war was over, the people of Britain were **overjoyed**. They gathered at Buckingham Palace to see the King and listened to his speech around the wireless in their homes.



Street parties were held, as were all-night celebrations. Even Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret went out into town to party! Even though the war continued in the East against Japan, it was certain to be over soon.

What Things Were Rationed and Why?

Before the war broke out in 1939, Britain imported over 55 million tonnes of food a year. We still do today. The German Navy used submarines and warships to try to sink as many merchant ships coming into Britain carrying food, resources and weapons as possible.

There was a real danger Britain would starve as the country couldn't produce enough food to feed all its people and the armed forces. Food had to be rationed.

Everyone received a ration card and you would need them to purchase any food or clothing. Even if you were very wealthy, you were still given rations to make sure everyone got the same.

There was a black market where people could purchase rationed items for high prices, but this was illegal and you could be imprisoned. It was seen as unpatriotic and criminal to cheat the ration system.

People were encouraged to grow their own food in whatever land they could to provide 'free' food to feed their family.



Design a VE Day Party

Can you **plan a VE Day party** for your house?

At the end of the war there was not that much food available for people. When they planned their party they had to take it from the rations they had. Although they really want to celebrate the end of the war, they still had to **eat for the rest of the week** – they couldn't use up all their rations on the party.

- Look at the list of rationed food and see if it has anything different from what you would eat.
- Plan your menu using available items from your house.
- Plan your decorations using what you can spare at home (e.g. bedsheets, paper, flowers, ribbons and paints).
- Decide if you will do any special preparations to dress up for the party.
- Perhaps you could use something like FaceTime to ask others to join in online.

A Typical Week's Rations

Food (per person per week)

4oz bacon or ham
8oz sugar
2oz tea
1s2d meat (about 6p today)
2oz cheese
1lb jam
2oz butter
4oz margarine
2oz lard
1 egg
3 pints milk
1 can tinned fruit
1 box dried egg per 8 weeks



Clothes (48 points a year)

Coat= 18
Suit= 26-29
Men's shoes= 9
Women's shoes= 7
Dress= 11
Skirt= 7
Pyjamas= 8
Socks= 1
Gloves= 2
Scarf= 2
Trousers= 8
Shorts= 5

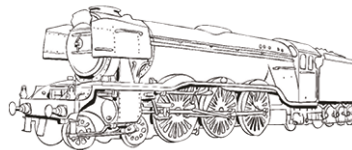
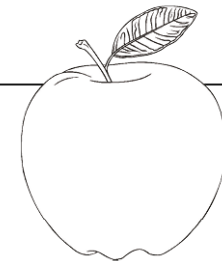
Toiletries

1 bar of soap
Very limited paper
1 box of washing powder
a month
5 inches of bath water a week
1 gas ring to cook dinner
1 toilet roll per family,
per week
Gravy to paint on tights



Available and non-rationed food

Apples
Home grown fruit and
vegetables
Potatoes
Fish (expensive)
Snoek (South African fish)
Whale meat
Brown bread
Pigeon
Rabbit
Spam



Petrol

Only war business.
Only essential journeys encouraged by train.

8th May, 1945 VE Day



Special Guests

Food

Special Preparations

Decorations

Use your VE Day party planning sheet to create your party plan.



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