



Drake Class

Year 5 and 6 English Home Learning Activities

Week beginning Monday 04/05/20



Writing Instructions

Linking to our theme on VE Day – the end of World War Two in Europe – I would like **you to produce a project over two weeks**. The first week will be looking at **how and where to research** and next week will be producing the project itself. Remember that this is a writing focus so make sure that the writing is the best you can do.

Step 1: Remind yourself of the key facts of World War Two.

Go through the PDF attached to this activity which are from: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance> – there is also a VE Day page attached below.

Alternatively, if you can't access PDF, read the VE Day text below so you understand why this is such a special occasion.

Step 2: Choose a topic to research.

Look at books, websites, talk to adults to **decide what area you would like to focus on**. It could be:

- The life of Children
- Weapons and Warcraft
- Leaders
- Famous Battles
- Food and Drink, Education
- Transport
- The Home Guard

...or anything else that peaks your interest.

Some useful websites are:

Woodlands History: <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/history/index.html>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/world-war-2>

BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-children-of-ww2/zm7wpg8>

Step 3: Take Notes on your subject area

Remember that notes are exactly that- notes – not full sentences. As you are reading or watching something about the area, write down the key information. Create a spider diagram or a list of facts for you to use to expand into your own words.

Attached to this activity is a PDF on 'How to take Notes' pages 10 onwards are especially useful.

There is also a useful BBC Bitesize link explaining how to be formal:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zdmw2hv>

Step 4: Map out your page project/presentation

Grab some paper and map out you page/pages with rough outlines of where your title, introduction and then subheadings with paragraphs will go.

Maybe look at some non-fiction books to give you a good idea (I have included one below to give you an idea.)

How will you present your project?

How many pages will you need?

What pictures do you want to accompany your writing?

Do you need to do any more research to fill in any gaps?

Extra Task: **Complete 'War Child' Comprehension** below (it's also a text that might give you some additional ideas too)

If you would rather follow online, structured lessons on information texts, then work through lessons 3 – 5 here: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/year-6/english#subjects> The link says Year 6 but the content is suitable for Year 5 also.

Lessons 1-2 are about reading and understanding information texts and the texts they have chosen have really great vocabulary – so they might be worth a watch if you have the time.

Weekly Reading Tasks

- Read your AR book and then take the quiz: Accelerated reader quiz: <https://ukhosted113.renlearn.co.uk/2236417/>
- Read to your parents/careers and discuss what you have read. Parents/careers - encourage them to read with expression and intonation.
- Watch Newsround and discuss what is happening in the wider world.
- Explore new vocabulary you find when reading. What are the origins of this word? Can it be modified? Can you find any synonyms or antonyms for your new word?
With your parent/career, look in magazines, newspapers and books for new vocabulary you are unfamiliar with. You could use a highlighter to highlight in magazines and newspapers.

Some of you have been asking about collecting new reading books but unfortunately, due to the school closure, we are not able to facilitate this. You may have books at home that have an Accelerated Reader quiz assigned to it and you can find this out by using the AR book finder <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> Here you can search a book and see if it has a quiz.

Free ebooks can be found at <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page> - you do need to register but all books are free to read during the school closure. Unfortunately, their levels do not match the Accelerated Reader ZPD codes that your child has. But after having a look at some of the ebooks on AR book finder, this is a rough guide

Oxford reading levels 1-5 are below a ZPD of 2, Levels 6/7 are roughly at a ZPD of 2 and levels 8-13 are between 2.5 and 4. This is a rough guide so please check before reading.

Audible is also giving free access to books during this time <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Weekly Spelling Tasks

It is great to see that many of you are practising spellings which you find difficult every day – it really is the best technique.

- Try to **work on 5 spellings a day** to help you make progress and then look to use them in your writing.
- **Handwriting practice** – ensure that you are joining all of your letters and practising those tricky joins (great to combine with your spellings).
- **Rainbow writing.** Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on.
- **Making up memorable 'silly sentences'** containing the word
- **Saying the word in a funny way** – for example, pronouncing the 'silent' letters in a word

VE Day

What is VE Day?

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day, and is celebrated on 8th May. Although it was not the end of the Second World War, it was the end of the fighting in Europe.



How did it happen?

In April 1945, Hitler died. This meant that the Germans had to surrender their part in the Second World War to the Western armies. The German President of the Third Reich (the German army), gave orders that General Jodl should go to the American army Head Quarters in France. Here, Jodl surrendered to the Western and Russian officers, and agreed to all their demands.

The Announcement

The British people began celebrating as soon as they heard the news! Bell ringers in churches around the country, were ready to ring out the good news when an official notice was given.



The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, made the following announcement at 19.40, 7th May.

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



The Effects of War

In Britain, during the war in Europe, half a million homes were destroyed, thousands of ordinary people were killed and millions of lives had been torn apart.



The three great powers were:

- Great Britain
- Soviet Union (Russia)
- France

Bring on the Celebrations!

People began decorating the streets with banners, bunting and ribbons. They had street parties, neighbours shared food, and listened to the radio news programmes.

King George VI and the Queen appeared eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and their two daughters, Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth – who is now Her Majesty the Queen – walked in the huge crowds in London!

Churchill told the crowds, "This is your victory!"

The End of the VE Day

Buckingham Palace was lit up in floodlights for the first time in six years since the war began, and two searchlights formed a V, the sign of peace, above St Paul's Cathedral in London.

All the lights were turned off again the next day.



Although everyone was pleased the war in Europe had come to an end, many people would have also felt sad, for the family and friends who had been killed.

War Child

How did the War affect children's everyday lives?

During the war life changed for everybody, including children. For most children, the war years were a time of anxiety. For many, it was a period of family separation. For some, it was a time of profound personal loss. Many children had to grow up quickly during wartime. Many had to look after themselves and younger siblings while their mothers worked.

An Evacuation

Nearly two million children were evacuated from their homes at the start of World War Two. They were evacuated to the countryside to escape the bombing.

Children had labels attached to them, as though they were parcels. They stood at railway station not knowing where they were going nor if they would be split from brothers and sisters who had gathered with them. They felt scared about being away from their families and had to adjust to new schools and make new friends.



Rationing

Children experienced a restricted diet because of rationing.

Air Raids

Children lived in fear from the constant threat of air raids. They spent some nights living in air raid shelters just in case German planes dropped bombs on their houses. Their fears came true during the Blitz. One in ten of the deaths during the Blitz of London from 1940 to 1941 were children.

Gas Masks

The government thought that children under five would be scared of the gas masks so they produced a specially designed Micky Mouse gas mask. It was brightly coloured in red and blue.

School Life

Children had to take regular gas drills at school. They found these drills hard to take seriously, especially when they discovered blowing through the rubber made 'rude' noises.

L/O: Can I understand author's choice?

War Child



1. Find and highlight the phrase 'profound personal loss'. What does this phrase mean?

2. Find and highlight the word 'anxiety' what do you think it means?

3. Find and highlight the phrase 'adjust'. What do you think it means?

4. Find and highlight the word 'restricted'. What do you think it means?

5. Find and highlight the phrase 'their fears came true'. What do you think the author means?

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!