

# V-E Day: How World War II Ended in Europe

**Bloom's Level:** Understand

**Standard:**

NCSS.II.1 — Analyze Historical Events

C3.D2.His.13.9-12 — Analyze Historical Events

TEKS §113.41(c)(7)(F) — Analyze major issues of World War II

STUDENT EDITION



On May 8, 1945, people across Europe and North America flooded the streets to celebrate the end of World War II in Europe, known as V-E Day.

## V-E Day: How World War II Ended in Europe

### When the Guns Finally Went Silent

Imagine living through nearly six years of constant fear — air raid sirens, food shortages, and the daily news of loved ones lost in battle. Then, on May 8, 1945, the radio crackles with an announcement that changes everything: the war in Europe is over. Crowds pour into the streets of London,

Paris, New York, and Moscow, weeping and cheering at the same time. This was Victory in Europe Day — V-E Day — one of the most significant moments of the twentieth century. But how did the world arrive at that moment, and what did it mean for the future? To truly understand V-E Day, we need to examine the final collapse of Nazi Germany, the horrifying discoveries Allied soldiers made along the way, and the difficult decisions world leaders made about what would come next.



On May 8, 1945, people across Europe and North America flooded the streets to celebrate the end of World War II in Europe, known as V-E Day.

### The Collapse of the Third Reich

By early 1945, Nazi Germany was crumbling from multiple directions. The **Nazis** were members of Adolf Hitler's political party, which had seized control of Germany and used extreme nationalism, racism, and military force to build an empire across Europe. Hitler had launched his regime in 1933 with promises of a "thousand-year empire," but twelve years later, that empire was being squeezed from both sides. In the west, American, British, and Canadian forces had crossed into Germany after liberating France. In the east, the Soviet Red Army was pushing relentlessly toward Berlin, the German capital.

Hitler refused to surrender. He retreated into an underground bunker beneath Berlin and continued issuing orders to armies that barely existed anymore. On April 30, 1945, with Soviet troops just blocks away, Hitler died by suicide. Within days, German military commanders signed unconditional surrender documents — first on

May 7 in Reims, France, and then again on May 8 in Berlin to satisfy Soviet demands. May 8 became the official date the world would remember as V-E Day.

It is important to understand what "unconditional surrender" meant. Germany did not negotiate terms or keep any political power. The Allies — the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union — took complete control of Germany. This was a deliberate choice, designed to prevent the kind of resentment that had followed World War I and helped fuel the rise of Hitler in the first place.

## **The Liberation of the Concentration Camps**

As Allied forces advanced through Germany and occupied territories, they discovered something that shocked even battle-hardened soldiers: the Nazi concentration and death camps. These were sites where the Nazi regime carried out the **Holocaust** — the systematic, state-sponsored murder of approximately six million Jewish people, along with millions of others including Roma, people with disabilities, political prisoners, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Places like Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, and Dachau revealed the full scale of this horror to the world.

American journalist Edward R. Murrow broadcast a radio report from Buchenwald on April 15, 1945, describing what he saw in devastating detail. He ended his report by saying, "I pray you to believe what I have said about Buchenwald. I reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it, I have no words." Primary sources like Murrow's broadcast help us understand not just what happened, but how people at the time struggled to make sense of it.

The liberation of the camps became a defining moral justification for the Allied cause. It also raised urgent questions: How had this been allowed to happen? Who was responsible? These questions would be addressed at the Nuremberg Trials, where Nazi leaders were prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity — a landmark moment in international law.

## **Yalta, Potsdam, and the Seeds of the Cold War**

Even before V-E Day, Allied leaders were meeting to decide what postwar Europe would look like. In February 1945, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin gathered at Yalta,

a resort city on the Black Sea. They agreed to divide Germany into occupation zones, hold free elections in liberated countries, and establish the United Nations.

However, the agreements made at Yalta were fragile. The core problem was a clash of political systems. The United States and Great Britain were **democracies**, where citizens elect their leaders and individual rights are protected by law. The Soviet Union was a **communist** state, where the government controlled the economy and political opposition was suppressed. Stalin had very different ideas about "free elections" than Roosevelt and Churchill did. As Soviet forces occupied Eastern Europe, they installed communist governments loyal to Moscow rather than allowing democratic elections.

This growing tension between the democratic West and the communist Soviet Union became known as the **Cold War** — a conflict not fought with armies on a battlefield, but through political pressure, espionage, and the constant threat of nuclear weapons. A follow-up conference at Potsdam, Germany, in July and August 1945 deepened these divisions. By then, Roosevelt had died and was replaced by Harry Truman, who took a much harder line against Stalin. The decisions made at these two conferences — about borders, governments, and spheres of influence — shaped the political map of Europe for the next 45 years.

### **Summary: One Ending, Many Beginnings**

V-E Day was a moment of genuine relief and celebration, but it was also a turning point that opened new chapters of history. It is worth noting that the war itself did not end on May 8 — fighting continued in the Pacific until Japan surrendered in August 1945, an event known as **V-J Day**. Together, these two moments marked the true close of World War II.

The defeat of Nazi Germany ended one of the most destructive conflicts in human history, exposed the horrors of the Holocaust to the world, and forced nations to confront questions about justice, responsibility, and human rights. At the same time, the postwar settlement planted the seeds of the Cold War, dividing Europe and setting the stage for decades of global tension.

When we analyze primary sources from V-E Day — the newspaper headlines, the radio broadcasts, the photographs of celebrating crowds — we are not just looking at a single day. We are interpreting a moment when the world tried to understand what it had just survived, and what kind of future it wanted to build. What do you think those celebrating crowds understood about the challenges that still lay ahead?

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

## Lesson Objective

In this lesson, you will explore how and why World War II ended in Europe, examining the collapse of Nazi Germany, the liberation of the concentration camps, and the postwar agreements that shaped the modern world. You will use primary sources and historical evidence to explain the causes, events, and consequences of V-E Day. By the end of the lesson, you should be able to describe in your own words what V-E Day meant — both as a military turning point and as the beginning of new global challenges.

**Standard:** NCSS.11.1 — Analyze Historical Events; C3.D2.His.13.9-12 — Analyze Historical Events; TEKS §113.41(c)(7)(F) — Analyze major issues of World War II

**Bloom's Level:** Understand

**Bloom's Goal:** Students will demonstrate understanding by explaining the causes, key events, and consequences of V-E Day and the end of World War II in Europe in their own words.

**Explanation:** The Understand level of Bloom's Taxonomy asks students to go beyond memorizing facts and instead interpret and explain what historical events mean. In this lesson, students will make sense of complex events — like the fall of Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and the origins of the Cold War — by connecting them to each other and to the broader story of World War II.



Allied leaders met at conferences like Yalta and Potsdam to negotiate the future of postwar Europe — decisions that would shape the next half century of world history.

**Primary Source Analysis (DBQ)**

Read the primary source excerpt below carefully. Then answer all four questions that follow. For each question, use specific evidence from the source and your knowledge of World War II to support your response.

**Radio Broadcast from Buchenwald Concentration Camp** [Radio Broadcast Transcript]

I pray you to believe what I have said about Buchenwald. I have reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it, I have no words. Dead men are plentiful in war, but the living dead — more than twenty thousand of them in a single camp — and the country round about was pleasing to the eye, and the Germans were well fed and well dressed. American soldiers who saw it could not quite believe it. One of them said to me, 'I never knew it would be like this.' Nor did I. We knew. The world knew. And yet somehow we did not know. I have reported what I saw, but only part of it. This is not a place for the living. I pray you to believe it.

— Edward R. Murrow, CBS News Radio Broadcast from Buchenwald, Germany, April 15, 1945

1. Who created this source, and what was his purpose in broadcasting this report? How might his role as a journalist influence what he chose to include or emphasize in his description of Buchenwald? [Sourcing]

2. What was happening in Europe in April 1945 when this broadcast was made? How does knowing that Allied forces were advancing into Germany and liberating concentration camps help you better understand why Murrow's report was so significant at that moment? [\[Context\]](#)

---

---

---

3. Murrow says, 'We knew. The world knew. And yet somehow we did not know.' What do you think he means by this statement? What does it suggest about how people at the time understood — or failed to understand — the Holocaust while it was happening?

[\[Close Reading\]](#)

---

---

---

4. How does Murrow's broadcast connect to what you have learned about the Nuremberg Trials and the Allied response to the Holocaust after V-E Day? What questions did discoveries like Buchenwald force world leaders and ordinary citizens to confront? [\[Corroboration\]](#)

---

---

---

### Timeline Construction

Place the five events below in correct chronological order by writing the letter IDs from earliest to latest. Then, for each event, respond to the significance prompt in one or two sentences using evidence or reasoning from what you have learned.

A. Allied leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet at Yalta to negotiate the postwar division of Germany and the future of liberated European nations.

**Date / Period:**

**Significance:**

Why was the Yalta Conference an important turning point, and what tensions did it reveal among the Allied powers?

**B.** Nazi Germany signs unconditional surrender documents, and May 8 is declared Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day), ending the war in Europe.

**Date / Period:**

**Significance:**

Why did the Allies insist on unconditional surrender rather than a negotiated peace, and what did V-E Day mean for people around the world?

**C.** American journalist Edward R. Murrow broadcasts a radio report from the liberated Buchenwald concentration camp, describing the horrors of the Holocaust to the world.

**Date / Period:**

**Significance:**

Why was Murrow's broadcast significant as a primary source, and how did the liberation of the camps affect the Allied cause?

**D.** Adolf Hitler dies by suicide in his underground bunker in Berlin as Soviet forces close in on the German capital.

**Date / Period:**

**Significance:**

How did Hitler's death affect Germany's ability to continue fighting, and what did it signal about the fate of the Nazi regime?

**E.** Allied leaders meet at the Potsdam Conference, where growing disagreements between Truman and Stalin deepen the divisions that will define the Cold War.

**Date / Period:**

**Significance:**

How did the Potsdam Conference differ from Yalta, and why did its outcomes matter for the next several decades of world history?

**Close Reading Passage**

Read the following passage carefully. Then answer the five questions below, using evidence from the text to support your responses.

**The Liberation of the Concentration Camps**

As Allied forces advanced through Germany and occupied territories, they discovered something that shocked even battle-hardened soldiers: the Nazi concentration and death camps. These were sites where the Nazi regime carried out the Holocaust — the systematic, state-sponsored murder of approximately six million Jewish people, along with millions of others including Roma, people with disabilities, political prisoners, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Places like Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen, and Dachau revealed the full scale of this horror to the world. American journalist Edward R. Murrow broadcast a radio report from Buchenwald on April 15, 1945, describing what he saw in devastating detail. He ended his report by saying, "I pray you to believe what I have said about Buchenwald. I reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it, I have no words." The liberation of the camps became a defining moral justification for the Allied cause. It also raised urgent questions: How had this been allowed to happen? Who was responsible? These questions would be addressed at the Nuremberg Trials, where Nazi leaders were prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity — a landmark moment in international law.

1. According to the passage, who were the victims of the Holocaust? Identify at least three groups mentioned in the text. **[Comprehension]**

2. What were the Nuremberg Trials, and why does the passage describe them as a "landmark moment in international law"? [Comprehension]

---

---

---

3. Edward R. Murrow says, "For most of it, I have no words." What does this statement suggest about what he witnessed at Buchenwald, even though he does not describe it directly? [Inference]

---

---

---

4. The passage states that the liberation of the camps "became a defining moral justification for the Allied cause." What can you infer about how the discovery of the camps changed the way people understood the purpose of World War II? [Inference]

---

---

---

5. Why does the author include a direct quote from Edward R. Murrow's radio broadcast rather than simply summarizing what he reported? How does this choice affect the reader's understanding of the Holocaust's impact? [Craft]

---

---

---

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

**Reflection Questions**

Answer each question in complete sentences, using evidence from the article to support your thinking.

1. Why did the Allies insist on Germany's unconditional surrender rather than allowing Germany to negotiate terms at the end of World War II?

Think about: Consider what happened after World War I and how that outcome contributed to the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

---

---

---

---

2. How did the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps change the way the world understood the purpose and meaning of the Allied victory in Europe?

Think about: Think about what Allied soldiers discovered and how primary sources like Edward R. Murrow's broadcast helped people make sense of the Holocaust.

---

---

---

---

3. In what ways did the agreements made at Yalta and Potsdam plant the seeds of the Cold War, even as World War II was coming to an end?

Think about: Consider the fundamental differences between democracy and communism, and how the Soviet Union's actions in Eastern Europe conflicted with what the Allies had agreed upon.

---

---

---

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

**Compare & Contrast**

Compare and contrast the Yalta Conference and the Potsdam Conference using the three dimensions below. For each dimension, write 2-3 sentences explaining how the two conferences are similar or different. Use evidence from the article to support your responses.

**Comparing:** Yalta Conference (February 1945) vs. Potsdam Conference (July-August 1945)

**1. Leadership and Participants**

Who were the key leaders representing the Allied powers at each conference, and how did the leadership differ between the two meetings?

---

---

---

**2. Goals and Agreements**

What were the main goals or agreements reached at each conference regarding postwar Europe, and how did those goals compare to each other?

---

---

---

**3. Impact on U.S.-Soviet Relations**

How did each conference affect the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union, and what do those effects reveal about the growing tensions of the Cold War?

---

---

---

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM**

**Application Questions**

Read each question carefully, think about what you learned in the article, and write a complete response using evidence and your own words.

1. Why did the Allies demand an unconditional surrender from Germany rather than allowing Germany to negotiate terms? What lesson from World War I influenced this decision?

Think about: Consider what the article says about the purpose of unconditional surrender and how the aftermath of World War I contributed to Hitler's rise to power.

---

---

---

2. How did the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps change the way people understood the purpose and meaning of World War II? Use evidence from the article to support your answer.

Think about: Think about what Allied soldiers discovered in the camps, how journalists like Edward R. Murrow reported on it, and what the article says about the moral justification for the Allied cause.

---

---

---

---

---

3. Explain how the agreements made at the Yalta and Potsdam conferences contributed to the beginning of the Cold War. What was the main source of tension between the Allied powers?

Think about: Consider the differences between democracy and communism described in the article, and think about what happened in Eastern Europe after Soviet forces moved in.

---

---

---

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

**Multiple Choice**

Choose the best answer for each question based on your understanding of V-E Day and the end of World War II in Europe.

1. What does 'V-E Day' stand for, and on what date was it officially celebrated?
  - A. Victory in Europe Day, celebrated on May 8, 1945
  - B. Victory in England Day, celebrated on May 7, 1945
  - C. Victory in Europe Day, celebrated on April 30, 1945
  - D. Victory in Europe Day, celebrated on August 15, 1945
2. Why did Allied leaders choose to require Germany's 'unconditional surrender' rather than negotiating terms?
  - A. To punish Germany more harshly than any nation had ever been punished before
  - B. To prevent the kind of resentment that followed World War I and contributed to Hitler's rise
  - C. To allow the Soviet Union to take full control of Germany's government
  - D. To ensure Germany would pay financial reparations to all Allied nations immediately
3. Which of the following best describes the Holocaust as discussed in the article?
  - A. A series of military battles fought between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union
  - B. The Nazi regime's systematic, state-sponsored murder of approximately six million Jewish people and millions of others
  - C. A political movement that opposed Hitler's rise to power inside Germany
  - D. The Allied bombing campaign that destroyed major German cities during World War II

4. What was the significance of journalist Edward R. Murrow's radio broadcast from Buchenwald in April 1945?

- A. It announced Germany's official surrender to Allied forces
- B. It described the Allied military strategy for defeating Nazi Germany
- C. It helped the world understand the full horror of the Nazi concentration camps through a firsthand account
- D. It reported on the celebrations taking place across Europe after the war ended

5. What was the purpose of the Nuremberg Trials following World War II?

- A. To negotiate the terms of Germany's postwar economic recovery
- B. To divide Germany into occupation zones controlled by Allied nations
- C. To prosecute Nazi leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity
- D. To establish the United Nations as an international peacekeeping organization

6. At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Allied leaders agreed to do which of the following?

- A. Divide Germany into occupation zones, hold free elections in liberated countries, and establish the United Nations
- B. Immediately arrest all Nazi leaders and put them on trial in Berlin
- C. Allow Germany to keep its government as long as Hitler was removed from power
- D. Give the Soviet Union complete control over all of Eastern Europe

7. Why did tensions grow between the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II?

- A. The United States refused to help rebuild Europe after the war ended
- B. The Soviet Union wanted to continue fighting Japan in the Pacific
- C. The two nations had clashing political systems — democracy versus communism — and disagreed about free elections in Eastern Europe
- D. The United States and Soviet Union competed to claim Germany's military technology

8. How did the postwar conferences at Yalta and Potsdam contribute to the beginning of the Cold War?

- A. They resulted in a military alliance between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany
- B. Disagreements over borders, governments, and spheres of influence deepened divisions between democratic and communist nations
- C. They led to the immediate use of nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union
- D. They established a permanent peace agreement that prevented future conflicts in Europe

9. Which statement best explains why V-E Day did not mark the complete end of World War II?

- A. Germany continued fighting in secret even after signing the surrender documents
- B. Fighting continued in the Pacific against Japan until V-J Day in August 1945
- C. The Soviet Union refused to accept Germany's surrender until September 1945
- D. Allied nations were still negotiating the terms of peace in Europe through the end of 1945

**10.** Based on the article, what is one reason historians study primary sources such as newspaper headlines, radio broadcasts, and photographs from V-E Day?

- A.** Primary sources from V-E Day prove that all Allied nations agreed on how to rebuild Europe
- B.** They help historians understand how people at the time experienced and made sense of the events they lived through
- C.** Primary sources are more accurate than secondary sources because they contain no bias
- D.** They show that celebrating crowds fully understood the Cold War tensions that would follow the war

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

PREVIEW  
CLASSFABRIC.COM

**True / False**

Read each statement carefully. Write T if the statement is true or F if the statement is false based on what you have learned about V-E Day and the end of World War II in Europe.

1. V-E Day, celebrated on May 8, 1945, marked the official end of World War II in both Europe and the Pacific.

True  False

2. Adolf Hitler died by suicide in an underground bunker in Berlin as Soviet troops closed in on the city.

True  False

3. Germany's unconditional surrender meant that Nazi leaders were allowed to keep some political power and negotiate the terms of peace.

True  False

4. Allied soldiers discovered Nazi concentration camps as they advanced through Germany, revealing the full scale of the Holocaust to the world.

True  False

5. The Holocaust refers to the Nazi regime's systematic murder of approximately six million Jewish people, along with millions of others from targeted groups.

True  False

**6.** At the Yalta Conference, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin agreed that Germany would remain unified under a single Allied government after the war.

True  False

---

**7.** The Cold War was a period of tension between the democratic United States and Great Britain on one side and the communist Soviet Union on the other.

True  False

---

**8.** Stalin honored the Yalta agreements by allowing free democratic elections in the Eastern European countries occupied by Soviet forces.

True  False

---

**9.** The Nuremberg Trials were held to prosecute Nazi leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity, representing a landmark moment in international law.

True  False

---

**10.** The political decisions made at the Yalta and Potsdam conferences helped shape the political map of Europe for approximately 45 years after World War II.

True  False

---

## Vocabulary

Review the following key terms from the lesson on V-E Day and World War II in Europe. Read each definition carefully and be prepared to use these terms when analyzing historical events, primary sources, and the consequences of the war.

### V-E Day

Victory in Europe Day, celebrated on May 8, 1945, marking the official end of World War II in Europe after Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### Nazis

Members of Adolf Hitler's political party that seized control of Germany and used extreme nationalism, racism, and military force to build an empire across Europe.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### Unconditional surrender

A complete surrender in which the defeated side gives up all power and cannot negotiate any terms, as Germany did at the end of World War II.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **Holocaust**

The systematic, state-sponsored murder of approximately six million Jewish people and millions of others carried out by the Nazi regime during World War II.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **Nuremberg Trials**

A series of landmark court proceedings after World War II in which Nazi leaders were prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity, establishing important principles in international law.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **Democracy**

A system of government in which citizens elect their leaders and individual rights are protected by law, as practiced by the United States and Great Britain.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **Communist**

Relating to a political and economic system in which the government controls the economy and suppresses political opposition, as in the Soviet Union during the Cold War era.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **Cold War**

The prolonged period of political tension, espionage, and nuclear threat between the democratic West and the communist Soviet Union that followed World War II and lasted about 45 years.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **Yalta**

A resort city on the Black Sea where Allied leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met in February 1945 to negotiate the postwar division of Europe and the establishment of the United Nations.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

### **V-J Day**

Victory over Japan Day, the moment in August 1945 when Japan surrendered, marking the true end of World War II after fighting continued in the Pacific following V-E Day.

Explain in your own words:

---

---

**Exit Ticket**

Answer both questions in 1-2 sentences each using what you learned from today's lesson. Be specific and use evidence from the article to support your answers.

1. Why did the Allies demand Germany's unconditional surrender, and what did that mean for Germany after the war ended?

---

---

2. How did the different political systems of the United States and the Soviet Union contribute to tensions after V-E Day, and what did those tensions eventually become known as?

---

---



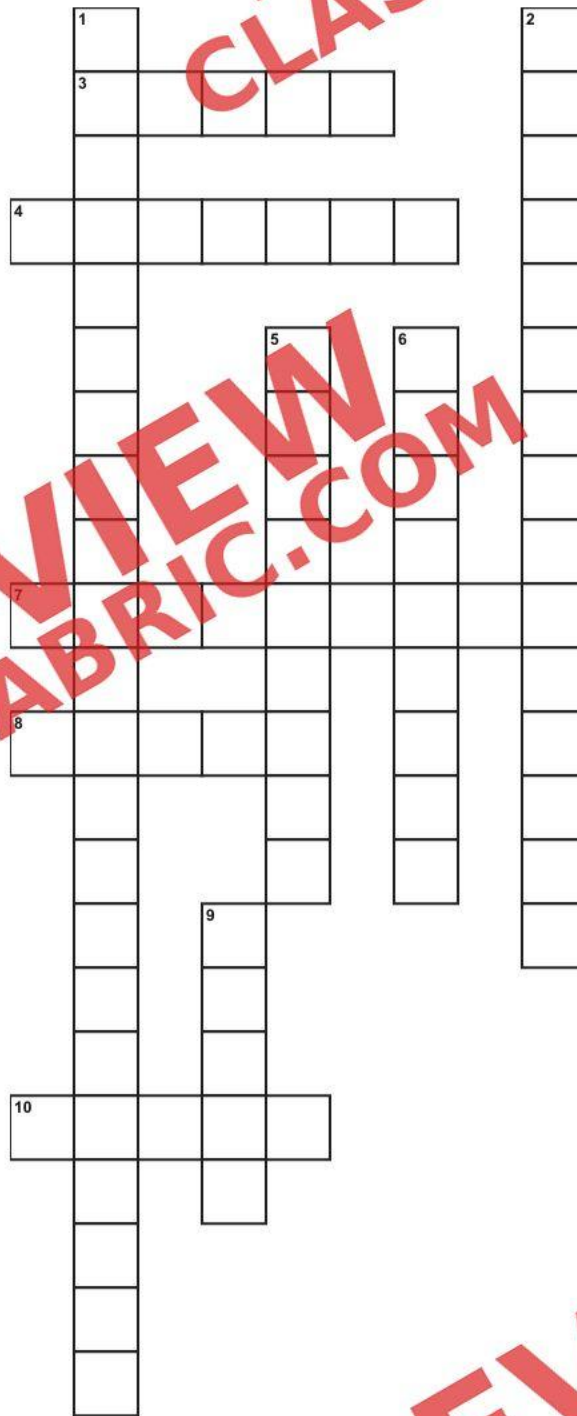
On May 8, 1945, people across Europe and North America flooded the streets to celebrate the end of World War II in Europe, known as V-E Day.



Allied leaders met at conferences like Yalta and Potsdam to negotiate the future of postwar Europe — decisions that would shape the next half century of world history.

# V-E Day: How World War II Ended in Europe

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



# V-E Day: How World War II Ended in Europe

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- Members of Adolf Hitler's political party that seized control of Germany and used extreme nationalism, racism, and military force to build an empire across Europe.
- The prolonged period of political tension, espionage, and nuclear threat between the democratic West and the communist Soviet Union that followed World War II and lasted about 45 years.
- The systematic, state-sponsored murder of approximately six million Jewish people and millions of others carried out by the Nazi regime during World War II.
- A resort city on the Black Sea where Allied leaders Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met in February 1945 to negotiate the postwar division of Europe and the establishment of the United Nations.
- Victory in Europe Day, celebrated on May 8, 1945, marking the official end of World War II in Europe after Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender.

### DOWN

- A complete surrender in which the defeated side gives up all power and cannot negotiate any terms, as Germany did at the end of World War II.
- A series of landmark court proceedings after World War II in which Nazi leaders were prosecuted for war crimes and crimes against humanity, establishing important principles in international law.
- A system of government in which citizens elect their leaders and individual rights are protected by law, as practiced by the United States and Great Britain.
- Relating to a political and economic system in which the government controls the economy and suppresses political opposition, as in the Soviet Union during the Cold War era.
- Victory over Japan Day, the moment in August 1945 when Japan surrendered, marking the true end of World War II after fighting continued in the Pacific following V-E Day.

# V-E Day: How World War II Ended in Europe

## WORD SEARCH

U N C O N D I T I O N A L S U R R E N D E R F Y  
Z N W Z U O Z K A Q N K P S A R H E C V E D A Y  
G A T U N G S M A B Z U Z G N J S O W O R R Y H  
S Z K J B B T B Q J N D F V R X O V Q P Z E J Y  
A I I N E I L E Q A R X P T V D Y W H T R B Q M  
I S Q N D L X Y M J W U G E L J A F N R Q W A J  
T Y A S D X Q J R W E N S X Y A L R B H R S D B  
I O Z A W Z E N A H N P V M K H T U V X F F E Y  
R N T Q N C E S K C T Z T I B M A N W H X B M Y  
C D Y E U K Y O N K K T A A E P I Y J W E Q O A  
O E H J X Q L N X R Z A M Z T L N S T G Y B C G  
M Z E P N B P H O F I N A W W C C Z G J X C R S  
M D T K M E X H O L O C A U S T D W R F P B A C  
U Y N C M E D N R P P M K A R C D W M Q Z I C R  
N L G W F G B S K K Q P H L W X L W I C I Y Y B  
I C O D Y G P H P R Y B G I S I H B Z L X J K B  
S W M P H S H H C G L M E X Y H Y G Z C U D Z V  
T A R C W R R K U K T V O K P M E W V A E J A J  
E A G Y J T L K P P Z J C Q R D Z W P C U L B D  
W J H G W Y U Q W Y R Q Y K Z L B Z M Y U L E A  
P L F M J V F A O Z N S C C H H I Y P P S Z D Y  
B P E Q B Q A I Q B H Z K Q S T P Z R M Z G P E  
P O P E R N Q T B S X V B W C K O L B Y K Y Y E  
A C O L D W A R N U R E M B E R G T R I A L S K

### FIND THESE WORDS

Unconditional surrender  
Holocaust  
V-J Day

Nuremberg Trials  
Cold War  
Yalta

Communist  
Nazis

Democracy  
V-E Day