



Weekly Writing Task

Information Text



Welcome young writers!

Your task this week is to write an information text suitable for a History Magazine. The text should inform the readers about VE day.

1) The first thing you need to do is to think of 5 open questions about VE Day.

These may be:

- What is VE day?
- How was VE day celebrated in 1945?
- Was VE day a cause for celebration for everyone in 1945?
- Why do we remember VE day 75 years later?
- How is VE day to be commemorated / celebrated this year?

2) Use the internet to research the answers to these questions. Make brief notes under each of the questions. Remember to use a variety of sources and only write down key words to help you remember the facts. It is important that when you write it is in your own words.

Here are some sources you could use:

Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48201749>

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

The Royal British Legion <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>

Imperial War Museum <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-ve-day>



- 3) Draft an introduction that will engage the target audience. Are you aiming your text at younger children, children of your own age or adults at home? Remember to include a rhetorical question.
- 4) Decide how you are going to layout your page. As you are writing for a magazine remember to include space for headings, photographs, pictures and fascinating facts. There is an example text at the end of this document.
- 5) Write your paragraphs using your notes. Remember to think of a suitable subheading for each paragraph. Refer to the Year 6 success criteria for punctuation.
- 6) Include a brief conclusion that reminds the reader what VE Day is and how people hope it will continue to be commemorated/ celebrated in years to come.
- 7) Add pictures, photographs, colour headings, write captions relating to pictures and any other final touches.
- 8) Share and read your information text to someone at home. Have they learned lots about VE day?

Punctuation Success Criteria	
Semi-colon ;	
Colon :	
Commas, brackets or dashes for parenthesis. ,, () _ _	
The boy, who was 9, ran in his garden.	
? for a rhetorical question	

Example Historical Information Texts - Could your writing be even better?

Castle Defences

Castles were built for rich men - lords or kings - and their family to live in. Castles protected them against enemies and kept them all, including horses and valuables, safe.

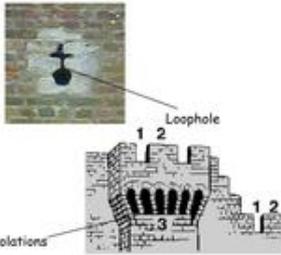


Were castles built for attack?

Holes in the walls, loopholes, allowed archers to be protected, whilst attacking.

Machicolations were parts of the castle that juttred out. They had holes on the floor to drop stones or pour boiling oil on enemies.

In the 1300s keyhole-shaped holes appeared in the sides of castles. This was after the invention of guns!



What was a moat?

A moat was a wide, deep ditch full of water surrounding the castle. It was dug to keep out enemies, as people could only enter over the drawbridge and through the portcullis. Moats also stopped enemies from tunnelling under the castle as any tunnels would fill with water.

What weapons were used to attack castles?

Traction trebuchet - This was operated by a team of men. They pulled down on one end of a beam, causing the other end to fly up. This flung a large stone towards the castle.

Catapult - Twisted ropes were used to bend a large beam. When the ropes were released, the beam flew upwards, sending heavy rocks towards the castle.

DID YOU KNOW?
Some castles were built on the sides of cliffs. This was so that the lord could protect his land from enemies coming from across the sea.

WORKING HORSES

Have you ever wondered what life would be like for horses in war? Nearly all the horses in great Britain were gone for the war effort. Horses who had to pull ambulances and carts had to go back and forth with dirty, angered and heavy men.

More horses needed!

In Western Europe in August 1914, Britain and Germany had a cavalry force that each numbered about 100,000. In the first year of war, riding ponies were taken to be used for any job a horse could do. The families were very sad and mad that their horses had gone.

More than just an animal!

All the riders of the ponies, that were taken were always thinking about what was happening to the horses in this moment in time. It was always heart breaking for the farming families who saw the finest and most beloved horses requisitioned by the government.

Carried guns

How do you think guns were carried? They were carried on a cart by two very strong working horses. Horses pulled heavy, machine guns, to be used for war. Horses were very brave to carry the special machine guns.

Did you know?

In 1914 at the start of the war the British army had 25,000 horses but they oats and 2,460,301 ton of pressed hay, needed half a million more for battle. The British army provided 2,978,301 ton of pressed hay.