VE Day

Focus Questions

1. What happened on the 8th May 1945?
2. What year did World War II start?
3. Who was the leader of the Nazi Party?
4. The German invasion of _____ marked the beginning of WWII.
5. Who were the Axis powers?
   a. Germany, Poland and Italy
   b. Germany, Italy and Japan
   c. Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union.
6. Who were the Allied forces?
7. In Germany and German occupied countries, the Nazis imprisoned and killed millions of people, mostly Jewish, in what's known as the _____.
8. What does VE stand for?
9. The surrender of which country marked the end of WWII?
10. What did you learn while watching the BTN story?
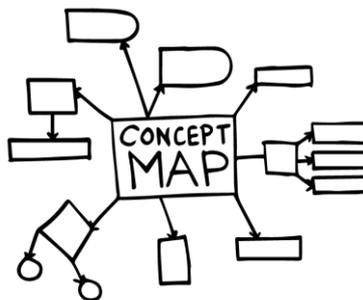
Activity

Personal response
After watching the BTN VE Day story, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- This story made me wonder why…
- It was interesting to learn that…
- This story made me feel…
- BTN covered this story because…

Discussion
Discuss the information raised in the BTN *VE Day* story. Ask students to record what they know about the Second World War and VE Day on a mind map. What questions do students have? Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- When did World War II start and finish?
- Who were the Axis powers?
- Who were the Allies?
- What does VE stand for?
- What is an unconditional surrender?
- Did VE Day mark the end of WWII? Why not?

Key Learning
Students will learn more about VE Day and significant events in the Second World War.

Curriculum

HASS – Year 5 & 6
Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines.

HASS – Year 7
Construct significant questions and propositions to guide investigations about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Present ideas, findings, viewpoints, explanations and conclusions in a range of texts and modes that incorporate source materials, citations, graphic representations and discipline-specific terms, conventions and concepts.

⚙ Activity

Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN *VE Day* story. Here are some words to get them started.

Allies	**unconditional surrender**	**Holocaust**
victory	**invasion**	**Axis powers**

⚙ Activity

Timeline of main events

Students will research significant events in WWII and create a timeline. Below are some examples of information to include. Students can create an [Interactive timeline](#) or choose another way to display the information.

1939, September
Germany invades Poland. World War II begins.

1944, June D-Day
The US, Britain and Canada attack German forces in France.

1945, May
Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe.

⚙ Activity

Research

Students will develop their own question/s for inquiry relating to World War II. There are some examples of questions to research below. They will locate, compare, select and use information from a range of primary and secondary sources

- What is a primary source?
  Through using primary sources, a document like a diary, painting or a physical object, that was written or created at a particular time, we can gain an understanding of what might have happened at a place in time.

- What is a secondary source?
  Secondary sources are documents written after an event has occurred, providing "second-hand" accounts of that event, person, or topic. Unlike primary sources, which provide first-hand accounts, secondary sources offer different perspectives, analysis, and conclusions of those accounts.

As part of their research, students will need to:
- Use historical terms and concepts in their presentation.
- Refer to the source of the information (i.e. bibliography).
- Look for facts and opinions that answer their inquiry question/s.

Discuss ways that students can present their research. These include:

- Podcast - Audacity or GarageBand are both well suited to making podcasts. To publish they will need to use a free service like PodOmatic, Buzzsprout
- News article
- Prezi presentation
- Create an infographic using Canva
- Oral presentation

Key questions	Facts and interesting information
Who were the Allies and what did they want to achieve?	
What were the events that started WWII?	
What were the events leading up to VE Day?	
What is an unconditional surrender? Which General accepted Germany's unconditional surrender?	
Did VE Day mark the end of WWII? Why not?	
How were the effects of WWII felt long after the War ended? (Political, social and economic)	

⚙ Activity

Visual literacy

Below are images of VE Day. Students look at the image and then respond to the following questions:
- What do you see in this image? Describe the setting and who is in the image.
- What do you think is happening?
- If there are people in the image who do you think they are? How do you think they might be feeling?
- What question/s would you like to ask the people in the image?
- Do you think it is an important image? Why or why not?
- Create a caption for each.

Source of image

Source of image

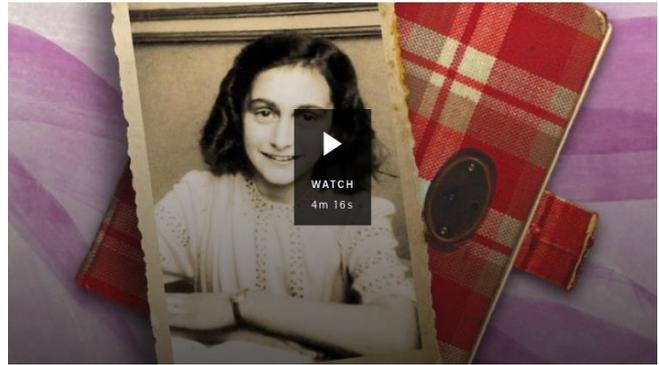Source of image

Source of image

⚙ Activity

Focus questions

Students will watch this BTN Second World War story and then respond to the following discussion questions.

1. At the end of the First World War what document did many countries sign?
2. Who was Adolf Hitler?
3. What year was Austria invaded by the Nazis?
4. Who were Britain's and France's Allies?
5. In 1941 Japan bombed Pearl Harbour. Where in the US is Pearl Harbour?
6. What was the Holocaust?
7. In which country did the US drop two nuclear bombs?
8. What words would you use to describe the Second World War?
9. What questions do you have about the BTN story?

Students will watch this [BTN Anne Frank](#) story and then respond to the following discussion questions.

11. Where was Anne Frank from? Find using Google Maps.
12. What did Anne Frank call her diary?
13. How old was Anne when she started keeping a diary?
14. Where did Anne Frank and her family flee from before arriving in the Netherlands?
15. What political party was Adolf Hitler a leader of?
16. How were Jewish people treated by the Nazis?
17. What happened to Anne Frank's family when the Nazis invaded the Netherlands?
18. How did you feel watching the BTN *Anne Frank* story?
19. What questions do you have about this story?

WATCH
4m 16s

⚙ Activity
Second World War Quiz

WWII Quiz Questions	Your Answer

1. What year did WWII start?
     a. 1939
     b. 1942
     c. 1945	

2. Which was NOT one of the Allies during WWII?
     a. Britain
     b. Soviet Union
     c. Germany	

3. The Axis countries were…
     a. Germany, Poland and Italy
     b. Germany, Italy and Japan
     c. Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union	

4. Why did Britain declare war on Germany?
     a. Germany invaded Britain
     b. Germany invaded Poland
     c. Britain wanted to rule Europe	

5. Who ruled Germany during WWII?
     a. Adolf Hitler
     b. Winston Churchill
     c. Joseph Stalin	

6. What does VE stand for?
     a. Victory in Europe
     b. Victory in England
     c. Victory of Everyone	

ABC
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
News

7. VE Day marked the end of the Second World War.
    a. True
    b. False	

8. Which country unconditionally surrendered on May 8th, 1945?
    a. Italy
    b. Germany
    c. Poland	

9. How long did WWI last?
    a. 6 weeks
    b. 6 months
    c. 6 years	

10. The surrender of which country marked the end of WWII?
    a. Japan
    b. Italy
    c. Britain	

Answers: 1a, 2c, 3b, 4b, 5a, 6a, 7b, 8b, 9c, 10a

Useful Websites

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

Second World War – Australian War Memorial
https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/second-world-war

Second World War – BTN
https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/second-world-war/11460762

Anne Frank – BTN
https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/anne-frank/11981700