

D-Day

6 June 1944

Primary assembly framework



1. As pupils enter

Play the archive BBC News audio clip announcing that 'D-Day has come'. You may also choose to display the montage image of two photos showing troops landing on the beaches of Normandy in northern France.

2. Introduction

Tell pupils that today they will be finding out about the D-Day landings – a battle that took place more than 80 years ago on 6 June 1944 – an event that is widely considered to be the turning point of World War Two, with the Allied forces successfully invading the beaches of northern France and gaining a foothold in Europe. As they watch the video, ask pupils to remember any facts and to consider why D-Day was so important.

3. Play the video

The video and associated resources can be accessed on the BBC Teach website here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zxhbjfr>

The duration is 4m16s. Final words: '...the possible end of the war could not come soon enough.'

4. After the video - Time to talk

You could begin with some factual questions about D-Day to aid pupils' recall of the video and their understanding of it:

- When did D-Day happen? (*6 June 1944*)
- Where were the landings? (*Normandy on the French coast*)
- Who were the Nazis fighting on the 'Eastern Front'? (*The Soviet Union – what is now Russia and many other surrounding countries.*)
- Why is it called D-Day? (*D-Day is a generic term that is used to describe the start of a military operation.*)
- What was the military codename for D-Day? (*Operation Neptune was the name used for the landings on the beach and was part of the larger military operation named Operation Overlord.*)
- What is the word that Peter (who remembers hearing about D-Day when he was a child) says was used for the radio in 1944? (*'The wireless' – so called because the 'receivers' that people had in their homes didn't have any wires connecting to the transmitting station – the transmissions are sent via radio waves.*)

You could then invite a broader consideration of the significance of D-Day by asking:

- Why do you think D-Day was so important? (*D-Day was a huge turning point in the war. Beforehand, the allied troops had no access to Western Europe. But after this victory, they had a way to send troops to fight back against the Germans and start to free countries like France and Belgium, who had been taken over by the Nazis. Ultimately, it allowed the Allies to take the war to Germany and defeat them in Berlin.*)

5. Opportunity for reflection/prayer

Focus your reflection/prayer on **intergenerational respect, remembrance and commemoration**.