



*D-Day resources created by author Andrew Powell-Thomas*

[www.andrewpowell-thomas.co.uk](http://www.andrewpowell-thomas.co.uk)



The 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 is one of the biggest and well documented moments in world history – D-Day. It was the moment that, after two years of planning, over 150,000 troops from the allied nations landed in Normandy to begin the liberation of Europe in the Second World War. Many lives were lost on that day, and in the weeks and months that followed, but it was an action which ultimately brought peace to Europe.

I hope that you find these resources useful and can use them to help commemorate this occasion. There are a whole range of activities and ideas, some suited towards younger children, and others more suitable for older children. Use them as you see fit, they are free for anyone to use, so do please share them!

*Andrew*

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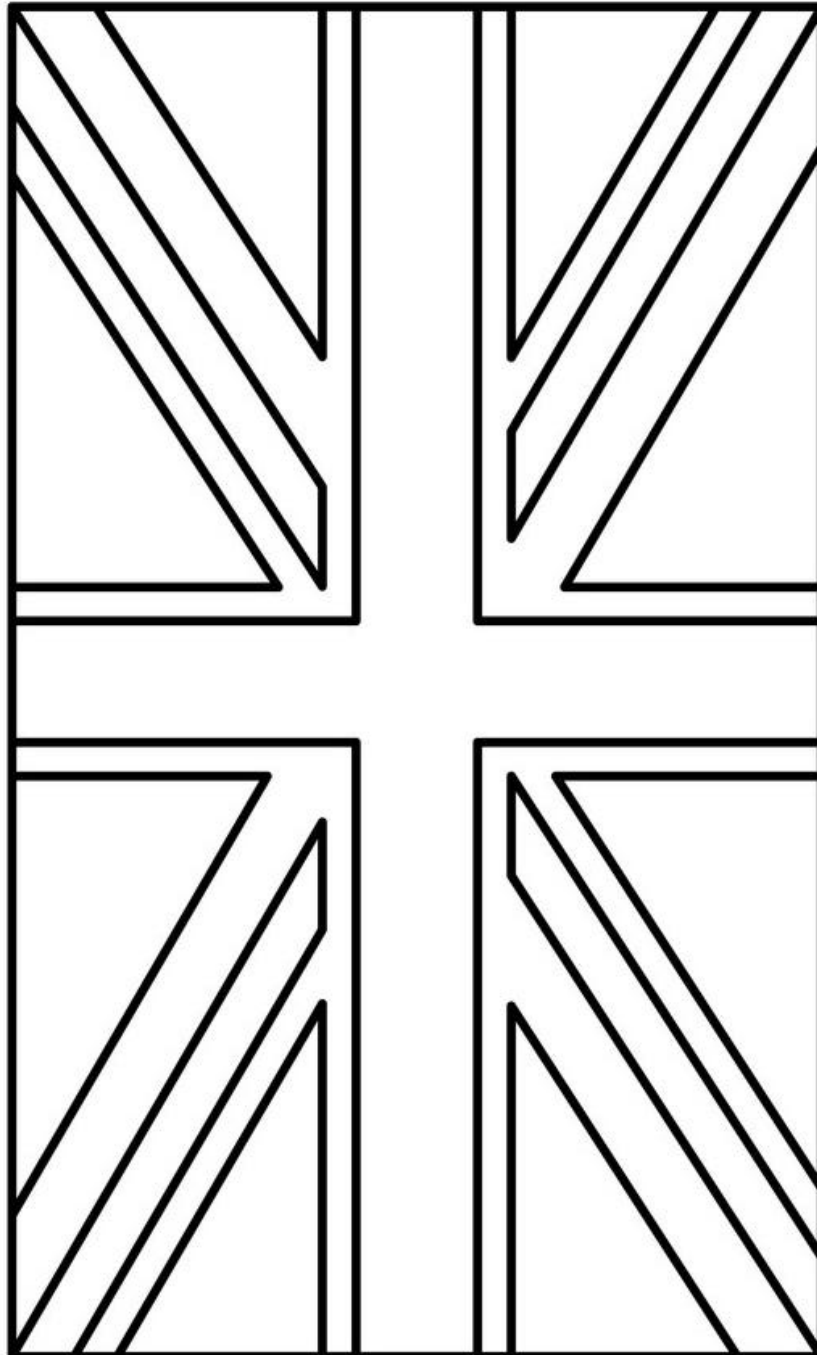


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Create your own bunting by printing out copies of this Union flag, colouring them in, and joining them together with string!





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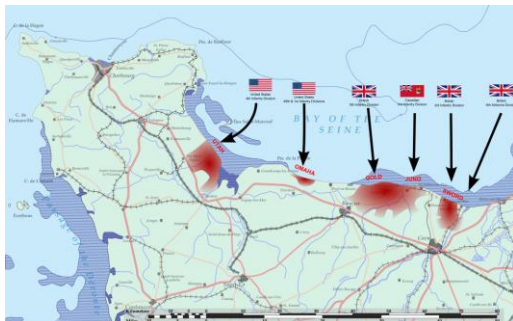


## Understanding D-Day – reading comprehension



After nearly five years of fighting and around two years of planning, on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, 150,000 men landed in Normandy on what is known as D-Day – the largest seaborne invasion in history.

Part of Operation Neptune, it was the beginning of the liberation of north-western Europe from Nazi Germany occupation, with troops from Britain, Canada, USA, France, Norway, Belgium, Poland, Luxembourg, Greece, Czechoslovakia, New Zealand and Australia taking part!



Over 20,000 of these men were airborne troops – landing inland to take strategic points like bridges, whilst the rest came ashore on the 5 targeted beaches of Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword in small landing craft. They were supported by over 11,000 aircraft and 7,000 naval vessels but fighting on the beaches was intense and thousands of lives were lost on this one day alone. However, by the end of the day the allies had managed to get a crucial foothold in France.

By the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1940, around 850,000 men and 148,000 vehicles had been landed in Normandy, paving the way for the liberation and end of the war in Europe eleven months later.



**Understanding D-Day – with reading comprehension**

1: When did D-Day take place?

2: What part of France did D-Day occur?

3: Can you list all the nations that the troops came from?

4: How did the troops get there? Write two ways.

5: What were the names of the 5 beaches they landed on?

6: How many men, aircraft and naval vessels took part in this day?

7: Explain what had happened by the end of June 1944.



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Look at this photograph of some soldiers getting off their landing craft at Normandy.



Observe – What can I see?

Wonder – What would I like to find out?

Infer – What could happen?





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The invasion force left England at night-time and went across the channel in convoy. Each of these landing craft is towing a barrage balloon for protection against low-flying German aircraft. They were to arrive at Normandy for sunrise.

How would you have felt if you were one of those men on board?



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### **Design your own landing craft.**

Can you design your own landing craft? What will it look like? How many soldiers will you be able to get on board?

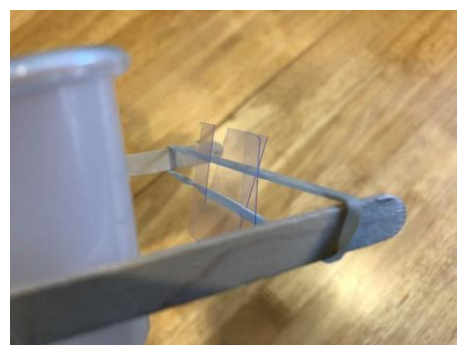
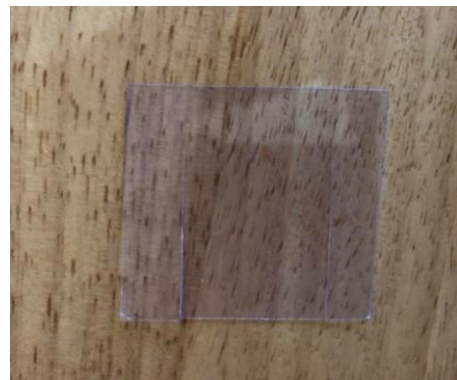
## Make your own self-propelling 'landing craft'.

You will need:

- margarine tub / Tupperware box
- 2 lolly sticks
- Glue or tape
- Elastic band
- Smaller piece of plastic (cardboard if none)
- Paint (optional)



1. Begin by taking your plastic tub and sticking the two lolly sticks at the back.
2. Then, paint your landing craft – what would camouflage it in the water?
3. Next, take your extra piece of plastic/ cardboard and cut it so it will fit the width of your craft. (But not too wide, so that it gets stuck as it goes round!) Cut slits in it and then put the elastic band through it.
4. Wind your landing craft up and watch it move forwards all by itself!



### Challenge and change.

- What is the maximum number of soldiers you can get on without it sinking?
- How far can it travel?
- Does paper or card work better for the propeller?
- Does the size or shape of the propeller make any difference?
- How does it move by itself?





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1: Landing craft on Omaha beach.

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2: Aircraft over Normandy on D-Day.

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3: D-Day beaches.

Operations Greenwood and Pomegranate Normandy July 1944 CC BY 4.0

4: Troops come ashore on Gold beach. Public Domain.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normandy\\_landings#/media/File:D-day -  
British Forces during the Invasion of Normandy 6 June 1944 B5246.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normandy_landings#/media/File:D-day_-_British_Forces_during_the_Invasion_of_Normandy_6_June_1944_B5246.jpg)

5: As 1

6: Large landing craft convoy crosses the English Channel on 6 June 1944

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