**Victory Day**

**Reading**

1. **In pairs, try to match the following information. Then, read and check your answers.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a) 9th May 1945  b) 4 years  c) 22nd June 1941  d) 900 days | 1. the siege of Leningrad  2. the beginning of the war  3. the Great Patriotic War  4. the end of the war |

The greatest **national** holiday in Russia is **Victory Day** – 9th May. **The Great Patriotic War** ended on this day in 1945. On that day, we celebrate the end of the war and remember the people who died for Russia.

The war lasted for four years. Soldiers **fought** all over the country: from the White Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south. The Brest Fortress was the first to **fight** the Nazis on 22nd June 1941. The Germans attacked Moscow many times. Leningrad – now St Petersburg – was **under siege** for 900 days. The battle of Stalingrad was one of the most important battles in this war.

There are a lot of monuments to the **heroes** of this war everywhere in Russia. The best known are Mamayev Hill, Piskarev Cemetry and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where an eternal flame burns.

Every year on 9th May, **veterans** who fought in the war take part in a **parade**. People give them flowers and then they all go to the monuments. There is a minute’s silence all over the country at 7 pm. This is when people **pay tribute** to those who died in this war. Victory Day is a holiday that unites all Russian people.

1. **Replace the pronouns in bold with the correct word(s) from the text. Then, explain the words in bold.**
2. **They** fought all over Russia.
3. **It** was the first city to take part in the war.
4. **It** is now called St Petersburg.
5. There are many monuments for **them**.
6. People see **them** in parades.

**Speaking**

**How do you celebrate Victory Day in your family / at your school? What do people in your region do on that day?**

**The Great Patriotic War, under siege, National, Victory Day, veterans, minute’s silence, heroes, lasted, celebrate, to fight, fought, pay tribute, remember, unites, monuments**

The greatest……………….. holiday in Russia is………………. – 9th May. ………………………………ended on this day in 1945. On that day, we **………………** the end of the war and **………………** the people who died for Russia.

The war **……….** for four years. Soldiers **………….** all over the country: from the White Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south. The Brest Fortress was the first ……………….. the Nazis on 22nd June 1941. The Germans attacked Moscow many times. Leningrad – now St Petersburg – was **………………….** for 900 days. The battle of Stalingrad was one of the most important battles in this war.

There are a lot of …………………….. to the …………………..of this war everywhere in Russia. The best known are Mamayev Hill, Piskarev Cemetry and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where an eternal flame burns.

Every year on 9th May, ………………..who fought in the war take part in a **parade**. People give them flowers and then they all go to the monuments. There is a ……………… …………………all over the country at 7 pm. This is when people ……….. ……………..to those who died in this war. Victory Day is a holiday that …………………all Russian people.