

## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR?

Let me start by saying that this is a fairly common topic. Whether at school, at university or in everyday life. A holiday was introduced to commemorate the feat of the Soviet people. My personal opinion is that we need to talk about it, but it does nothing to help those survivors who have been on the battlefield, right on death's doorstep.

We all praise the dead and forget the living, but they don't have much time left and all the time they are living in misery. They are only remembered on the ninth of May when they come into sight during the holiday. I bet many people don't even know the names of the living saviours of their homeland.

I'm not saying that celebrating people who have left our world is a bad thing. It would be good if people really took an interest in history. And more specifically, the Great Patriotic War. But let's be honest. Today, most schoolchildren and students simply memorize the names, forgetting them in a week. It is very important to tell and pass on this information in an interesting form, with details, so that it is taken seriously.

Many of us have grandparents. Some have great-grandparents who are still alive and remember the horror of the war. It is very important to listen to them, to be aware of that horror. Then we can together prevent our people from such a disaster in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to say the most important thing. I am proud of my people and the people who sacrificed their lives so that the following generation will not live like slaves. Our heroes gave us freedom and independence.

*Dashkovets Alexandra,*

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## **THE FEAT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR IS IMMORTAL!**

More than half a century has passed since the day of the victory over fascism in the Great Patriotic war. Inexorable time is taking its course, new generations are coming into life. But the memory of the tragedy and the heroism of the people will remain, even when there is no witness to this terrible time. Memory doesn't fade with age.

The Great Patriotic War was a war of the people. It was the people who rose to the defence of the Motherland who showed an unstoppable strength of spirit. But the most important thing that remains in the people's memory of the war is the ruthlessness of the enemy and the greatest tests that our compatriots have honorably endured. Forever in the grateful memory of the descendants, acts of the highest self-sacrifice and heroism in the name of victory will be preserved.

For bravery and heroism, more than 38 million orders and medals have been awarded to the defenders of the Motherland. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been awarded to more than 11,600 people. 104 persons were awarded this high rank by the end of the war twice. A clear manifestation of Soviet patriotism was the massive guerrilla struggle in the territories occupied by the enemy. Hundreds of thousands of Soviet men left behind in the rear of the German-Fascist troops took up arms and fought the invaders, sparing neither their forces nor their lives. Major guerrilla commanders and organizers of the underground movement came from among the peoples.

I admire and I am proud of the feat of our people. I know that they were brave warriors, that they carried their name with honor through the fire of war. They will always be an example of love for my country.

We must remember our history. It will prevent us from repeating the mistakes of the past, so that our future and that of our children and grandchildren will be bright and happy.

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## OBLIVION

Today, the following trend is observed: the younger generation isn't interested in the history of their country. They aren't interested in reading about the Great Patriotic War. I think it is because they don't understand how difficult it was and what sacrifices the country has made. Lomonosov said, "A country that doesn't know its past has no future." I believe that it's necessary to explain to the new generation from childhood what horrors the past generations have experienced because history tends to repeat itself if you do not learn from the mistakes of the past.

In my opinion, now in Belarusian schools, little attention is paid to the lessons of the history of Belarus, because a lot of people think: "I am not going to pass the test in history and I will not learn it." Therefore, I believe that the exam on the history of Belarus should be held every year, and here's why:

1. So that pupils do not forget to learn this important subject;
2. That when preparing for the exam, they repeat all the previous topics and systematize their knowledge.

If a pupil doesn't pass this exam, I suggest that he should stay in the same class for the second year.

Why is it so? It is very important to help people understand and learn the general ideas — the value of patriotism, service to duty and civic dignity, courage and selflessness, charity and tolerance, intransigence to war, racism and Nazism. In my school, I did history projects every week. I believe that this helped me to assimilate the material better.

Since there are very few veterans left in our country, young people can't learn something about the Great Patriotic War firsthand, and this is very bad. Therefore, they should themselves be interested in those terrible events, visit memorials, monuments and remember...always remember.

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## **GREAT DEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE ARE IMMORTAL**

The Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 was one of the most terrible trials that befell the Belarussian people. This terrible tragedy, which lasted for four years, brought a lot of grief.

The feat of the people in the Great Patriotic War is worthy of admiration. From the first days of the war, everyone stood up for the Motherland. It is terrible to think that our peers gave their lives for the fate of the country. Soldiers and officers, workers and collective farmers, scientists and cultural figures, children and adults bore the unbearable burden of hardships and suffering. Young warriors sacrificed themselves for the long-awaited victory. Many of them did not return home, and everyone can be considered a hero. After all, it was they who, at the cost of their lives, led the Motherland to a great victory.

We will always remember our grandfathers and great-grandfathers who won a great victory. There is no a single family that would not have been affected by the Great Patriotic War. Family archives carefully preserve and transmit from generation to generation old photos, newspaper clippings, orders and medals. Unfortunately, many are no longer alive, but the memory of them is alive and will live forever. Among thousands of people, the spirit of the kinship of souls, common history and memory is felt.

People brought into the difficult life of the country a belief in the future, a willingness to sacrifice themselves for the sake of others from the front of the Great Patriotic War. It seems to me that our people are still capable of repeating the feat of unity, brotherhood and duty, which became the main meaning of the Patriotic War. I am proud and will continue to be proud of the feats of the people who gave their lives and won the Great Patriotic War.

We, the younger generation, should know and not forget about the fate of all those who made a decisive contribution to the victory over Nazi Germany. The feat of the people who won the Great Patriotic War and defended the freedom and independence of the Motherland will live for centuries. Only by learning from the past, we can prevent new wars.

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