

What is a Medal?

For hundreds of years military medals and decorations have been awarded to soldiers for bravery, achievement and military service.

In 1816, the Waterloo Medal was created as the first medal awarded to all soldiers for their service in the Battle of Waterloo. Before this, medals were only awarded to officers and were only given for special acts of bravery or achievement.

Example: The Victory Medal was awarded in 1919 to soldiers who served in The First World War. The medal is made of yellow bronze and features Nike, the Greek goddess of victory. The ribbon is a double rainbow symbolising hope and peace.

Did you know?: Most medals are made from silver with silk ribbons but they can also be made of gold, bronze, nickel, and even lead!



Did you know?: The Victoria Cross is the highest medal that can be awarded by the British Military. It is awarded for valour in combat and was established in 1856.

Design Your Own Medal!

Use pencils and markers to design your very own medal! Think about what your medal represents and who would be receiving it.

