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Churchill stands with his mother, Jennie Jerome.

This portrait shows Churchill as a young boy.



Churchill played a key role in World War II.



## Who Was Winston Churchill?

Winston Churchill was born in 1874 into a very rich family. He grew up in Great Britain with his parents. He lived in a palace and had a duke for a grandfather.

Churchill died in 1965 at 90 years old. He led an exciting life. He once bravely escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp in South Africa. This event made him famous. He delivered more than 2,000 speeches in his life. In his spare time, he even painted. This amazing man served as Great Britain's prime minister two different times.

Just before the start of World War II, Churchill was 63 years old. Some British people felt he was a washed-up old man with nothing to offer. But, Churchill surprised the world with his leadership. This "washed-up old man" kept Adolf Hitler from taking over Europe.

### Not a Good Test Taker

Churchill did not do very well when it came to taking tests. He had to take the army entrance test three times before he was finally admitted. This must have frustrated him.

### V for Victory

Churchill encouraged the British people throughout the war. He formed his fingers like a V to stand for victory.



This sign has also been used in the United States to stand for "peace."