

Knowledge Organiser for Year 6– World War II

Big question: What was life like for a British child in the 2nd World War?

National curriculum specification

- study an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- Outline events of the Battle of Britain “as a significant turning point in British history”.

Timeline of key events

1 st September 1939	Germany invades Poland
3 rd September 1939	Britain & France declare war on Germany
7 th January 1940	Rationing of food begins
10 th July– 1 st October 1940	The Battle of Britain is fought in the air about the south coast of England and the English Channel. The London Blitz begins
6 th June 1944	D-Day –British, Canadian and US Troops land in Normandy France.
7 th May 1945	Germany surrenders
8 th May 1945	VE day
2 nd September 1945	End of WWII (Japan surrenders)
4 th July 1954	Rationing ends

Key places/ people

Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany 1933– 1945. Also referred to as Fuhrer
Neville Chamberlin	British Prime minister (1937–1940)
Winston Churchill	Prime Minister 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955
King George VI	Monarch 11 December 1936 – 6 February 1952. Father of Elizabeth II

Key vocabulary/Tier 3

Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia (1939–1941))
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941–1945))
Nazi	Member of the German political party which came to power in 1933
Evacuation	Organised movement of children and the vulnerable from towns and cities to safe zones
Evacuee	Someone who was evacuated moved from a danger area to a safer

	place.
Black out	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes
Rationing	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (food/clothing)
Blitz	Series of bombing raids on the UK
Propaganda	Controlling news media (such as radio) to show your side in the best way
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis
Gas mask	Face mask to protect people against poison gas
Air raid	An attack by planes dropping bombs
Air raid shelter	A building to protect people from bombs Anderson Shelter: Made of corrugated iron. Usually at the end of the garden Morrison Shelter: Metal cage used inside the house. Could double as a kitchen table
Atomic bomb	Weapon first used in 1945 when two bombs were dropped on Japan, killing more than 100,000 people

Key concepts
WWII was a battle between two groups of countries– The Allied Powers and the Axis Powers. The major allied powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the USA. The major Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.
Together with the Nazi party, Hitler wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on the 1st Sep 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declare war on Germany–WWII had begun.
The bombing of London, known as the blitz lasted for 57 consecutive nights. Hitler wanted to quash the British spirits so they would surrender
The battle of Britain was the first military campaign fought solely in the air.
Both the allies and the axis powers used propaganda posters to boost the moral at people at home and those fighting. It was also used to decrease the moral of the enemy.
The USA didn't join the war until 1941 when Japan attacked the US– at the naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.
The atomic bomb dropped by the US on Hiroshima was known as 'Little Boy' and is the only nuclear weapon used in battle. It ended the war.