



World War Two

Knowledge Organiser Year 6 Term 1 and 2

Key Questions

- When was WW2 and why did it happen?
- Who were the Allies, Axis and neutrals?
- What was life like in Britain on the Home Front?
- What are the key dates and events of WW2, and who are the key people?

Key People

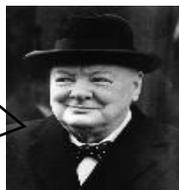
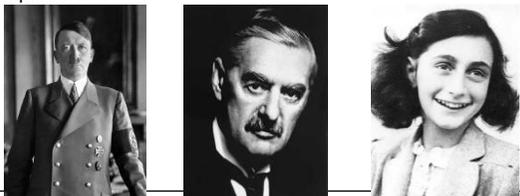
Adolf Hitler - Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945.

Neville Chamberlain - UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 (declares war on Germany).

Winston Churchill - UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955).

Franklin D. Roosevelt - US President, 1933 - 1945 (took the US into the war following the Pearl Harbour attacks).

Anne Frank - a German, Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family during WW2; she is famous for keeping a diary of her experiences.



'History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it.'

Winston Churchill

Useful web links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-world-war-two/zjnyscw>

<http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Britain.html>

<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/secret-annex/>

Key Knowledge

What I should already know:

- some awareness of chronology after competing timeline activities in Y3-5
- a good understanding of the countries that make up Europe (topic in Year 4) and to locate them using an atlas

What I will know by the end of the unit:

- When and why WW2 started
- Which countries were involved in WW2 as part of the Allied, Axis and Neutral Powers.
- What was rationing and why it was brought in during the war
- That propaganda was a form of communication used to encourage people to believe certain things
- Why children were evacuated from the cities to safer places in the country
- What the Blitz was and why it started
- That shelters were used to protect people from bombs dropped by planes. The 2 most common types were Anderson and Morrison shelters.
- What The Battle of Britain was
- What D-Day was and why it was so important
- That codes were used to ensure messages could be sent between allies without the enemy being able to understand them. The Enigma Machine was a cypher machine created by Germany. The code was cracked by a team at Bletchley Park!

• Key dates from the start to the end of World War Two – see below:

Date	Key events
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland.
September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (start of WW2).
January, 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK (Dig for Victory).
May 1940	Churchill takes over from Chamberlain as Prime Minister.
May – June 1940	British troops evacuated from Dunkirk as Nazi Germany invaded northern France.
June, 1940	Children were evacuated from main cities to the countryside.
June 6, 1940	Italy enters the war and declares war on Britain and France.
August, 1940	Germany tries to destroy the RAF in The Battle of Britain.
September, 1940	The Blitz – Germany bombs England's cities.
June, 1941	Clothes rationing introduced (Make Do and Mend).
December, 1941	Japan bombs US Naval base at Pearl Harbour: USA declares war on Japan and enters WW2.
6 th June, 1944	D-Day: British, US & Canadian troops land in Normandy for Operation Overlord.
30 th April, 1945	Hitler commits suicide, realising that the German army were facing defeat.
7 th May, 1945	Germany surrenders.
8 th May, 1945	VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)
6 th – 9 th August, 1945	USA drops atomic bombs on Japan as Japan refused to surrender.
2 nd September, 1945	WW2 officially ends; Japan surrendered on 15 th August, 1945.

Key vocabulary

Term	Definition
Air raid shelter	A structure to protect people from bombs dropped by planes. 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). Communal Shelter: usually in the underground stations.
Allies	Countries that fought on the British side (including: Great Britain, France, Russia and the USA).
Axis	Countries that fought on the German side (including: Germany, Italy and Japan).
Black out	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes (by turning lights off and using blackout curtains).
Blitz (Blitzkrieg)	Translated as 'lightning war'. A series of aerial bombing raids on the UK, mainly cities including London, Bristol & Nottingham. Intense bombing was undertaken by Nazi Germany (the Luftwaffe).
Concentration camps	Prisons where Jewish people, and other prisoners, were held by the Nazis.
Enigma	A machine used by the Nazis to send coded messages.
Evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place (normally from the cities to rural areas).
Hawker Hurricane	A British single-seat fighter aircraft used by the RAF (Royal Air Force).
Holocaust	The mass murder of over six million Jewish people by the Nazis.
Kristallnacht	The 'Night of Broken Glass', where German Nazis attacked Jewish people and their property.
Liberate	To set someone free from imprisonment.
Luftwaffe	The German Air Force.
Nazi	Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933.
Neutrals	The neutral powers took no official side, hoping to avoid attack.
Operation Pied Piper	A plan to evacuate children from cities to the countryside.
Operation Sea Lion	Nazi Germany's code name to invade the UK during The Battle of Britain.
Propaganda	Propaganda is a way of spreading ideas and influencing people.
Rationing	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (mainly food & clothing).
Supermarine Spitfire	A British single-seat fighter aircraft used by the RAF (Royal Air Force) known for its speed and agility.



