

World War 2: Year 6 Knowledge Mat

		War Timeline		Sticky Knowledge
axis	Countries which fought on the German side including Italy, Germany and Japan.	1 st September 1939	In 1933, Adolf Hitler rose to power as the political leader of Germany. Germany invades Poland. Britain insists Germany withdraw troops from Poland. The Germans refuse. Britain declares war on 3rd Sep 1939. Britain initially responded with bombing raids over Germany.	World War 2 was a battle between two groups of countries – the 'Allies' and the 'Axis'. The major Allied powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States. The major Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan. Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on 1 September 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun. During the course of the war, German forces advanced through Europe. By the summer of 1941 they had invaded France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and the USSR. Millions of Germans were imprisoned and killed because they didn't fit the image of the 'perfect' German. Hitler wanted to create what he thought was the 'best' and strongest race – and to the Nazi Party, this excluded certain groups, such as Jews, Gypsies and those with physical and mental disabilities. The group most heavily targeted by the Nazis were the Jews. Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust. Racist in his views, Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German people and society. The US didn't join the war until 1941, when Japan attacked the United States at their Naval Base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. On 8 December 1941 (the very next day), the US declared War on Japan and, in turn, its German allies. Some countries remained 'neutral' in World War 2. Such countries were Spain, Sweden and Switzerland – who chose not to join either side. The Germans surrendered on 8 May 1945. In 1944, an Allied army crossed from Britain to free France from Nazi rule. One year later, Allied armies invaded Germany, forcing the Germans to surrender. After nuclear attacks on Japan's major cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan also surrendered to Allied forces in August the same year. World War 2 had ended.
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France and Russia).	1939 Onwards	Children were evacuated from cities expected to be bombed as enemy planes targeted factories etc. Children were evacuated to the countryside.	
Nazi	Member of the German political group which came to power in 1933.	10th May 1940	Chamberlain resigned and Winston Churchill was chosen to be his successor as Prime Minister on May 10, 1940.	
evacuation	Organised movement of children and the vulnerable from towns and cities to safe zones.	June 1940	Evacuation of Dunkirk. Large numbers of troops were surrounded by Germans at the French coastal town of Dunkirk. 338, 226 were saved by a fleet of 800 boats. This is known as the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'.	
evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place.	6th June 1944	D-Day. The Normandy landings were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim Europe. It was the largest seaborne operation in history.	
Blitz	A series of bombing raids on the UK.	7th May 1945	Germany surrenders: The Allies had forced the surrender of Axis troops in Europe. On 7th May 1945 Germany surrendered to the Allies – the end of war in Europe.	
propaganda	Controlling news media (such as radio) to depict the war effort.	8th May 1945	VE Day. The VE in VE Day stands for Victory in Europe. It was the public holiday of 8th May 1945 to mark the defeat of Germany by the Allied forces in World War 2.	
Holocaust	Murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis.	6th August 1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Japan refused to surrender, threatening to fight on. The US considered invasion but this would have led to deaths of 500,000. On the 9th Aug, the US dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.	
Luftwaffe	The German Airforce.	15th August 1945	End of WW2. The surrender of Japan was announced on August 15th 1945.	
RAF	The Royal Airforce (British).			
refugees	A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war.			
Kindertransport	Transport arranged for Jewish children to flee German occupied countries.			

