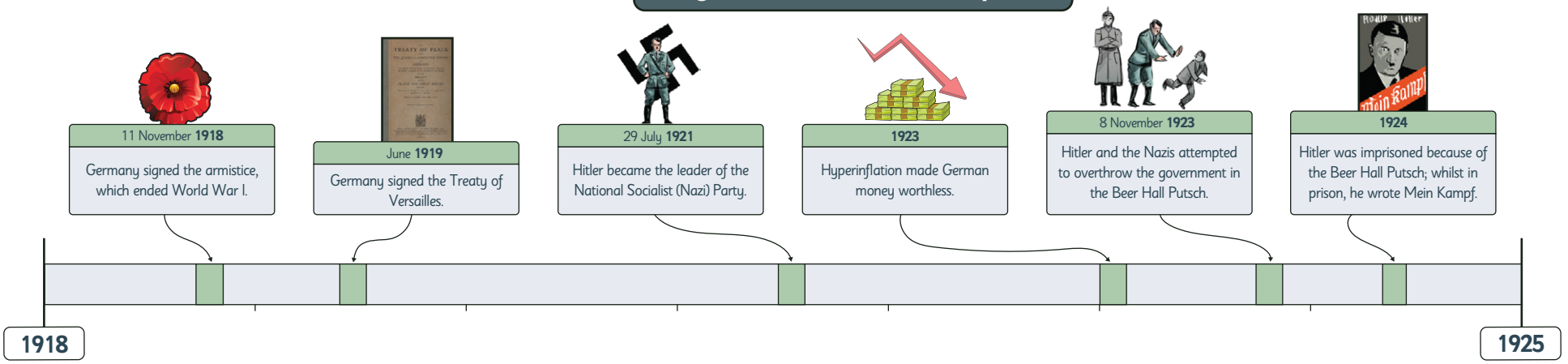
World War II

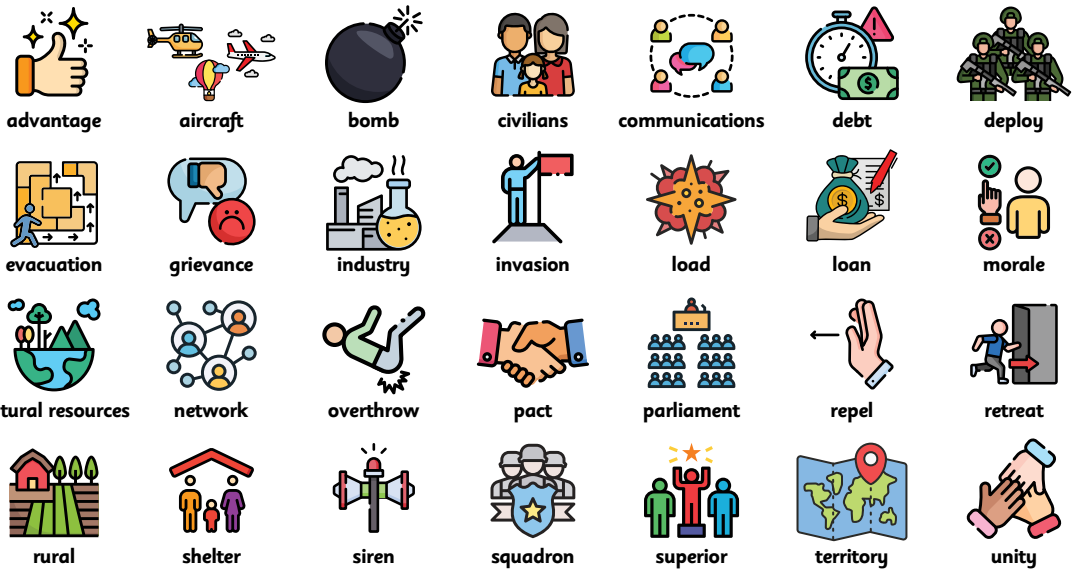
Knowledge organiser

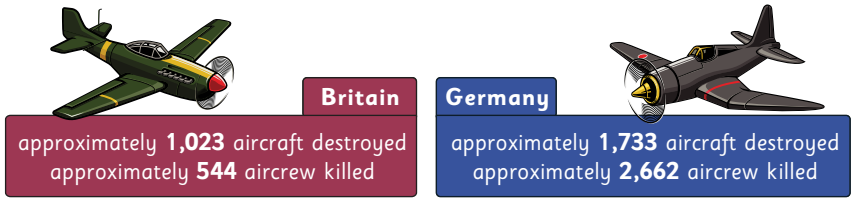
Year 6

Early events in Hitler's rise to power

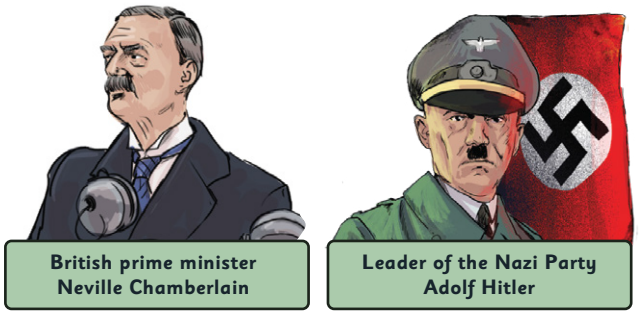


Key vocabulary





Statistics showing the aircraft and personnel loss during the Battle of Britain.

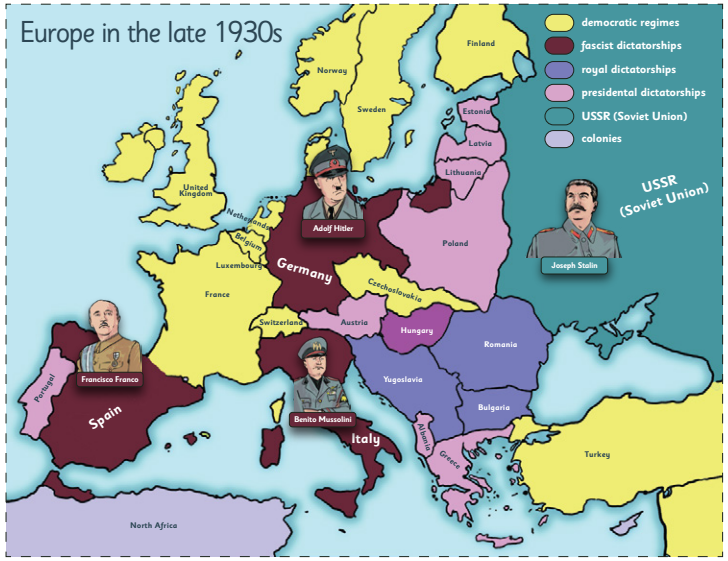


Grammarsaurus

Europe in the late 1930s

In the late 1930s, **dictators** ruled several countries across Europe. This made democratic countries such as **Britain** and **France** very worried. After the terrible events and suffering of the First World War, they hoped Europe would avoid another war, but there was no guarantee that this would happen.

Germany was a dictatorship led by **Adolf Hitler**. Hitler wanted Germany to become one of **the most powerful countries** in Europe. The Nazis treated some groups of people unfairly and cruelly because of their **religion** or **ethnic background**.



Britain's home front

The war affected members of the armed forces fighting abroad and civilians on the home front in Britain. The home front mainly involved the **nation's civilians**. Life **changed dramatically** for Britain's home front, especially for:

- **children** – many were evacuated to safer areas. This meant being separated from family and friends for long periods.
- **women** – with millions of men serving in the armed forces, women were required to fill the jobs that the men left behind. The contributions of women across different workplaces were crucial to the war effort.

A photo of an air raid shelter which was designed to keep people safe during German air attacks.

Outbreak of World War II

On **1st September 1939**, **Hitler invaded Poland**. **Britain** and **France declared war on Germany** two days later. Britain's prime minister at the time, **Neville Chamberlain**, addressed the nation with a speech. There was a widespread belief that Britain needed to stand firm against the **threat of Nazi aggression**. The government used posters and other messages to give people advice and encourage them during the war. The war affected civilians and members of the armed forces alike, and they all felt they had to work together to win.