



History focus

World War 2

Year 6

Autumn Term

What? (Key Knowledge)

Key Individuals



Winston Churchill	Winston Churchill undoubtedly remains the most famous Prime Minister our country has ever seen. He was a great public speaker and wartime leader and saw Britain through the toughest of times—during WW2.
Adolf Hitler	Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany from 1933 to 1945. He was leader of the Nazi party and became a powerful dictator. Hitler started World War II by invading Poland and then invading many other European countries. He is also known for wanting to exterminate the Jewish people in the Holocaust.

Key Information

How did WW2 start?	The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.
What is the Holocaust?	The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. Even before the war, they wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used propaganda to promote widespread public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against. Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.
Evacuation	During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing.
Rationing	Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed.

Possible experiences

- Remembrance Day commemorations
- VE Day celebrations

What? (Key Vocabulary)

allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler
atomic bomb	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
active service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces
conscripted	Required by law to serve their country in some way, usually in the armed forces.
dogfight	An intense, in-air, close-range battle between individual or small groups of aircraft.
commemorate	Mark or remember a past event.
home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.
rationing	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.
evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia

Timeline

Key Events		
1939	1st September	German troops invade Poland.
	3rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10th July	The Battle of Britain begins.
1941	7th September	The Blitz begins.
	22nd June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
1943	7th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
	16th and 17th May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies.
	6th and 9th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.



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