

KEY DATES

VOCABULARY

WHO FOUGHT IN WW2?

Event	Description	Dates
Outbreak of WW2	On 1st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave Germany notice to withdraw their troops. When they did not, Neville Chamberlain declared war on 3rd September 1939.	1 st -3 rd September 1939
Evacuation of children	People expected cities to be bombed as the Germans tried to hit military or trade targets. This would put children in danger, so many were sent to live with families in the countryside until the war ended.	September 1939 onwards
The Holocaust	The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany before and during WW2. It involved the murder of over 6 million Jewish people and millions of others. Many people perished in concentration camps.	1933-1945
Evacuation of Dunkirk	Large numbers of British, French and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers on the northern coast of France. 800 British boats set out and rescued many of them against the odds, although many men died.	26 th May - 4 th June 1940
D-Day Landings	Also known as the Normandy Landings, these were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe.	6 th June 1944
Hitler's Demise	With the German army facing defeat, Hitler married his partner Eva Braun on the 29th April and the next day he poisoned them both to evade capture.	30 th April 1945
Germany Surrenders	Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, bringing an end to the fighting in Europe.	7 th May 1945
Victory Europe Day	Details of Germany's surrender were circulated. People were extremely happy that the fighting had stopped. There were big celebrations and street parties. VE day was declared a national holiday.	8 th May 1945
USA drops atomic bombs on Japan	Japan refused to surrender. The US considered invading, but instead dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 th August) and Nagasaki (9th August).	6 th -9 th August 1945
Victory Japan Day	Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, effectively ending the Second World War.	15 th August 1945
WW2 Ends	On September 2, 1945, formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri, designating the day as the officially ending WW2 for everyone.	2 nd September 1945

AIR RAID - a bombing attack where explosives are dropped from aircraft onto the ground
AIR RAID SIREN - a loud alarm, warning residents to take cover in shelters when air raids occur
AIR RAID SHELTER - a place designed or repurposed so that residents can hide inside while air raids occur
ALLIES - The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
ANNEX - To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
ATOMIC BOMB - A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
AXIS - The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
BLACKOUT - a time when all lights must be turned off or covered to make it harder for the enemy to see their target during an air raid
BLITZ - a severe or sudden attack; the German air raids on Britain in 1940 - 1
CONSCRIPTION - a requirement by law for every eligible citizen to join the armed forces
CZECHOSLOVAKIA - A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
EVACUATION - the process of sending young people to live with host families during war time
NAZI PARTY - A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
PROPAGANDA - Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
RATIONING - allowing each person to have a limited amount of certain foods or commodities that are in short supply

The two sides that fought the war were called the Axis powers and the Allies. Germany, Italy, and Japan were the major Axis powers. The major Allies were the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom (Great Britain), and France. China also aided the Allies.

The Allies



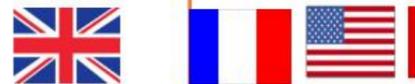
Neville Chamberlain
British Prime Minister until 1940

Winston Churchill
British Prime Minister from 1940

Charles de Gaulle
French General

Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the USA

Joseph Stalin
Soviet Union



The Axis



Adolf Hitler
Nazi German leader

Benito Mussolini
Prime Minister of Italy

Hideki Tojo
Prime Minister of Japan





YEAR 6 SUMMER

World War II involved many countries around the globe fighting against each other, including the UK. It lasted six years, from 1939-1945. 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 30th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty which allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, Hitler broke the agreement, first invading the rest of Czechoslovakia and then Poland on 1st September. The Allies (Britain, France and Poland) had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany. Fighting ended in Europe on 7th May 1945 but conflict between Japan and the USA continued until the 15th of August 1945.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Before the war, most women stayed at home and did not go out to work. Some women worked but their choice of job was limited, such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men went to war, women were needed to take on jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could continue to lead more independent lives.

EVACUATION

During the Second World War, over 3.5 million children, 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. It was believed they would be safer here from bombing as cities were more likely to be bombed during the Blitz. Children were separated from their families and sent to civilians in the countryside who agreed to take in evacuees to support the war effort.

THE HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust was a period of time during the Second World War when millions of people were persecuted and killed in Europe. The majority of the people who suffered during the Holocaust were of Jewish heritage and faith. Other groups were targeted too, including members of the LGBTQ+ community and disabled people. It is thought that over 10 million people died during the Holocaust. This is known as genocide. On 27th January each year, the Holocaust is commemorated on Holocaust Memorial Day.

