

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser – World War II

Key Facts

- 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.
- 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.
- Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or ship building. Some joined the armed forces themselves.
- The Holocaust is a 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.

Famous People

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolf Hitler was a German politician and leader of Nazi Germany. Hitler ordered the invasion of Poland in 1939 which started World War II. During World War II, Hitler was commander in chief of the German Armed forces and made all the important decisions. He is responsible for the deaths of 50 million people.
Winston Churchill (1874-1965)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winston Churchill was a British politician and Prime Minister during World War II. He gave many memorable speeches that inspired the British public, such as the 'finest hour' speech and the speech before the Battle of Britain. At the end of World War II, Churchill was considered a hero to the British people and many thought his leadership was the biggest reason for the defeat of Hitler.
Anne Frank (1929-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who lived with her family. She is significant because in order to escape the Nazi persecution of Jews, her family went into hiding for two years. During this time, Anne wrote about her experiences and wishes. She was 15 when the family were found by the Nazis. She was sent to a concentration camp where she died. Her work 'The Diary of Anne Frank' has gone on to be read by millions.



Key Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
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.
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries; the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
Propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
Active service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.



World War II Timeline

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



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