

WORLD WAR II

YEAR 6 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

St Agnes C of E Primary School

WW2 Essential Vocabulary

Key Events

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

**1 September
1939 to
2 September
1945**



8th May 1945 = VE Day - or 'Victory in Europe Day' - marked the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end.

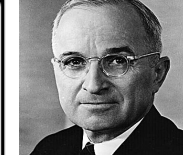
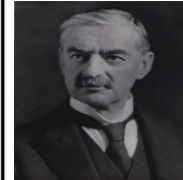
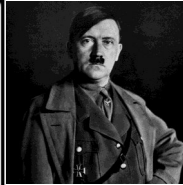
Air-raid	An attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.
Anderson shelter	A small shelter made from corrugated steel to protect people in air-raids.
Allies	Countries (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA) who fought the Axis Powers.
Atomic bomb	A powerful weapon that uses nuclear reactions as its source of explosive energy. First used in 1945.
Axis Powers	Germany, Japan, Italy and other countries that fought against the Allies.
Blackout	A wartime ban on streetlights and other lights at night, to reduce the risk of bombing by enemy planes.
Blitz	A prolonged period of German air raids on Britain. From the German 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'.
Concentration camps	Prisons where Jewish people and other prisoners were held by the Nazis.
Evacuation	Moving people from dangerous areas to safer places e.g. from big cities to the countryside to avoid bombing.
Fascism	A political system where the strength of the country is more important than the well-being of the people. Often ruled by dictators with unlimited power through suppression of any opposition and strict control of society.
Führer	German word meaning 'leader' or 'guide'. The title Hitler gave himself in 1934 when he gained absolute authority in Germany.
Gas masks	Face masks to protect people from poisonous gas attacks.
Genocide	Deliberate action to destroy a people (usually defined as an ethnic, national, racial, or religious group).
Holocaust	The mass murder of around six million Jewish people by the Nazis, as well as other persecuted groups.
Invasion	When an army or country uses force to enter and take control of another country or area.
Liberated	Freed from enemy control.
Luftwaffe	The German air force during the war.
Occupied	Taken over by enemy forces.
Nazi	Short for National Socialist Party (in Germany) and the name given to supporters of Hitler.
Persecution	Systematic mistreatment of an individual or group, especially because of race, religion or political beliefs.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Rationing	Controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol and other products to avoid or reduce shortages.
Spitfire	A British aircraft, particularly used during the Battle of Britain and known for its speed and agility.

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Leaders	
Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945 (also referred to as the Führer meaning leader)
Winston Churchill	UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955)
Neville Chamberlain	UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 (infamous for failed attempts to satisfy Hitler's demands prior to the war)
Franklin D. Roosevelt	US President, 1933 - 1945 (took the US into the war following the Pearl Harbor attacks)
Harry S. Truman	US President, 1945 - 1953 (responsible for the decision to drop Atomic bombs on Japan)
Joseph Stalin	General Secretary of the Communist Party and Leader of the USSR, 1929 - 1953



Who Fought in World War II?

ALLIED POWERS

AXIS POWERS



United Kingdom



France



Soviet Union



United States



Nazi Germany



Japan



Italy

Many other countries were involved, but these were the major ones on each side.

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