

Key Events of WWII

1.9.1939	German troops invade Poland.
3.9.1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
10. 5.1940	The Battle of France begins.
26.5.1940	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
10.7.1940	The Battle of Britain begins.
7.9.1940	The Blitz begins.
22.6.1941	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union)
7.12.1941	Japan bombs Pearl Harbour in the US.
16 & 17.5.1943	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
6.6.1944	The D-Day landings
7.5.1945	Germany surrenders to the Allies.
6 & 9. 8.1945	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

World War II

Knowledge Organiser

Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside as it was believed to be safer from bombing. Most of these people were children, but some teachers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities were evacuated too.

They were given a gas mask, ration book and identify cards to take with them and once they arrived, an officer would arrange for them to live with a family in the countryside.

Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by the German bombers which meant a huge shortage on foods and supplies. Rationing meant people were only allowed a fixed amount of foods and this was recorded in their ration book. Shopkeepers would stamp their books once they collected an item. People were asked to 'Dig for Victory' and grow their own food.

Why did World War II begin?

Adolf Hitler, the leader of Germany, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded 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.



Map of Europe in 1939

1901

Queen Victoria dies.

1914– 1918

World War 1

1928

All women given the right to vote.

1939– 1945

World War II

1953

Coronation of Elizabeth II

1969

First Moon Landing

1991

World Wide Web launched.

Present Day

Key Vocabulary

Active service	Taking part in a military opera
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	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Commemorate	Mark or remember a past event.
Conscripted	Required by law to serve their country in some way, usually in the armed forces.
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
Dogfight	An intense, in-air, close-range battle between individual or small groups of aircraft.

Evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.
Home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.
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	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.

Women during the War

Before the war began, most women looked after the home and children and didn't go out to work. This changed however when men were called up for active service as women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering. Some women 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 they could carry on leading more independent lives.



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.

Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against because of the propaganda spread by the Nazi party. The Nazi Party wanted to blame Jewish people for the problems in Germany.

Many Jews were forced to work as slaves at concentration camps where many died through starvation, exhaustion or infection.

Stone Age

15000 BC to 3,000BC

Ancient Egypt

3100 BC to 30BC

Ancient Greece

776BC to 146BC

Romans

AD 43 to AD 410

Anglo Saxons

AD 410 to AD 1066

Vikings

AD 793 to AD 1066

Victorians

AD 1837 to AD 1901

World Wars

AD 1914 to 1918
1939 to 1945