

History Topic:

Britain at War: The Home Front
1939-1945

Year 6

Autumn



Background information for teachers and parents

In this unit children will study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends their chronological knowledge beyond 1066.

World War II was fought between the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the Allied Powers (Britain, United States, Soviet Union, France). Most of the countries in the world were involved in some way. It was the deadliest war in all of human history with around 70 million people killed.

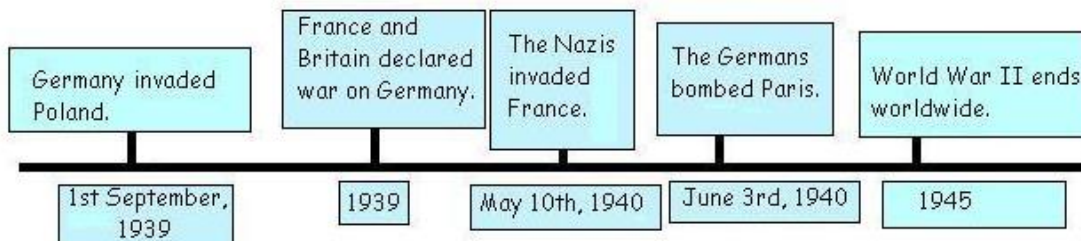
World War II started in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Great Britain and France responded by declaring war on Germany. The war in Europe ended with Germany's surrender on May 7, 1945. The war in the Pacific ended when Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945. World War II started in Europe, but spread throughout the world. Much of the fighting took place in Europe and in Southeast Asia (Pacific).

Why did Britain go to war in 1939?

On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded **Poland** from the west; two days later, **France** and **Britain** declared war on **Germany**, beginning World War II. On September 17, Soviet troops invaded **Poland** from the east.

World War Two involved many countries around the globe fighting against each other, including the UK. It lasted six years, from 1939-1945.

Timeline of Events



Allies and Axis

Key people

Allies vs. Axis

- ▲ Allies
 - ▲ Britain (Churchill)
 - ▲ France (Charles de Gaulle)
 - ▲ USSR (Stalin)
 - ▲ China (Kai-shek, nationalists)
 - ▲ US (FDR)
- ▲ Axis
 - ▲ Germany (Hitler)
 - ▲ Italy (Mussolini)
 - ▲ Japan (Yamamoto)



Neville Chamberlain (Prime Minister of Great Britain (1939-1940)

Winston Churchill Prime minister of Great Britain (1940-1945)

Adolph Hitler: chancellor of Germany (1933-1945)



Air raid- an attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.	Concentration camp - prison where Jews and other prisoners were kept by Nazis.
Anderson shelter - a small shelter made from corrugated steel to protect people from bombs, usually found in the garden.	Evacuee- someone who was evacuated moved from a danger area to a safer place.
Allies -countries, including Britain, France, the Soviet Union, USA and Australia, who joined forces to fight the Axis powers.	Gas masks- face mask to protect people against poison gas.
Appeasement - the leaders of Britain and France began a policy of appeasement , meaning they tried to avoid war by giving Hitler what he wanted.	Holocaust- mass murder of Jews and other people by Nazis.
Axis Alliance - Germany, Japan and Italy and other countries that were against Britain in WW2.	Home front – the actions and activities of the civilians (people not fighting) in a nation at war
Blackout- wartime ban on street lights and other lights at night.	Nazi - Short for National Socialist Party (in Germany). A follower of Hitler was also called a Nazi.
Blitz- German air raids from a German word 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'.	Propaganda - controlling news media (such as radio) to show your side in the best way.
Censorship - limiting access to information, ideas or books in order to prevent knowledge or freedom of thought	Rationing - controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol and other products.

KEY CONCEPTS

chronology	The order of events in time
monarchy/rule	A nation or government ruled by or in the name of a king or queen Monarchy is from two ancient Greek words that mean "to rule" and "alone".
technology	Using research into science and industry to help solve problems.
religion	Religion usually involves worship of a god or gods, and the belief in certain ideas about right and wrong behaviour.
education	The act or work of learning or training.
industry/ economics/trade	The activity of process of turning raw materials into finished products, or a particular business that does this. Trade is buying or selling goods.
empire	A group of nations or peoples under one ruler or government.
civilisation	An advanced state of development of a society as judged by such things as having a system of government and laws, using a written language, and keeping written records.
political/government	Politics is the work or study of governments. A government has the power to make laws and important decisions that control or affect all people living in a community, state, or nation
culture/art	The language, customs, ideas, and art of a particular group of people.
social	Living in groups or communities instead of alone. Social comes from <i>socialis</i> , a Latin word that means "united" or "living with others".

How to use this knowledge organiser

Set out in this organiser is what your child will be learning about this term. Each lesson will either use this knowledge- or build upon it. It is important for your child to regularly read this organiser so that when they meet the learning in class, they already have some prior knowledge; this will enable your child to build a good knowledge base and then use this knowledge in different ways.

You could help your child to build this knowledge by reading the organiser yourself and asking your child some questions about it, for example you could ask your child what specific terms mean (including the key concepts above) or you could quiz them about the different facts presented on the organiser. Children will be reading these in class too, and will regularly complete short quizzes about what is on them.

Thank you for your continued support.

