

Aldrynton Primary School Knowledge Organiser: How did the Second World War affect our local area?

Key Vocabulary		World War II - Key Dates	
allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China	1st September 1939	German troops invade Poland.
			The first Evacuees arrive in Reading from London
axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.	3rd September 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
		6th September 1939	The first air-raid warning is heard in Reading
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.	10th May 1940	The Battle of France begins.
		26th May 1940	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.	10th July 1940	The Battle of Britain begins.
		7th September 1940	The Blitz bombing of London begins.
		22nd June 1941	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.	7th December 1941	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
		10th February 1943	Reading is bombed
		16th & 17th May 1943	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
evacuee	A child sent away from their home in the city to live in a safer part of the country during wartime.	6th June 1944	The D-Day landings.
		June 1943	American troops are based at Brock Barracks, Reading
VE Day	Victory in Europe day – this marked the end of the war in Europe.	8th May 1945	VE Day – the end of war in Europe.
		6 & 9th August 1945	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

Key concepts –

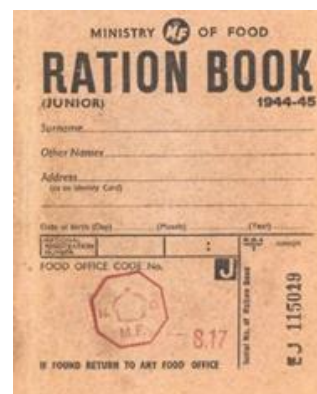


Evacuation

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, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.


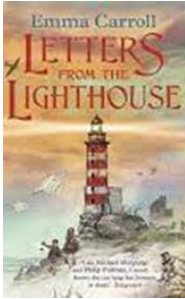



At the beginning of the war, Reading was designated a

safe town.



Rationing

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. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible.

Our local area – bomb damage in Reading		Stories linked to our topic	Possible places to visit
 <p>In the afternoon of 10th February 1943, a single German fighter plane bombed and machine-gunned Reading town centre. 41 people died and over 100 were injured. Casualties might have been higher had it not been a Wednesday afternoon, which was early-day closing, so the town centre was less busy than normal.</p>		 <p>Class novel Letters from the Lighthouse – Emma Carroll</p> <p>Other books: Goodnight Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – C S Lewis The Lion and the Unicorn – Shirley Hughes My friend the enemy – Dan Smith Bombs and Blackberries – Julia Donaldson Blitzcat – Robert Westall My secret War Diary – Marcia Williams Carrie's War – Nina Bawden The Diary of Anne Frank</p>	<p>Local: Reading Museum The Museum of Berkshire Aviation (Woodley) Didcot Railway Museum</p>  <p>London or elsewhere: The Churchill War Rooms The Imperial War Museum HMS Belfast Bletchley Park</p>
Key figures – Allied powers		Key figures – Axis powers	
 <p>Allied leaders left to right: Josef Stalin - USSR Theodore Roosevelt - USA Winston Churchill - UK</p>		 <p>Axis leaders left to right: Benito Mussolini - Italy Adolf Hitler - Germany</p>	<p>This year is the 80th Anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day marking the end of the Second World War in Europe. Look out for celebrations and events in your local area.</p> 