

Brief Timeline

1933

Adolf Hitler became leader of Germany.

1940

Germany attacked countries in Western Europe. More countries joined the war. Battle of Britain occurred.

1942

Germany declared war on USA.

1944 – D-Day**1945**

Adolf Hitler committed suicide and the German soldiers surrendered. World War 2 ended in Europe on 8th May which we now celebrate as VE Day. The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6th August. The World War ended officially on 3rd September.

1939

Germany begin to invade countries such as Poland. On the 3rd September, Britain declared war on Germany.

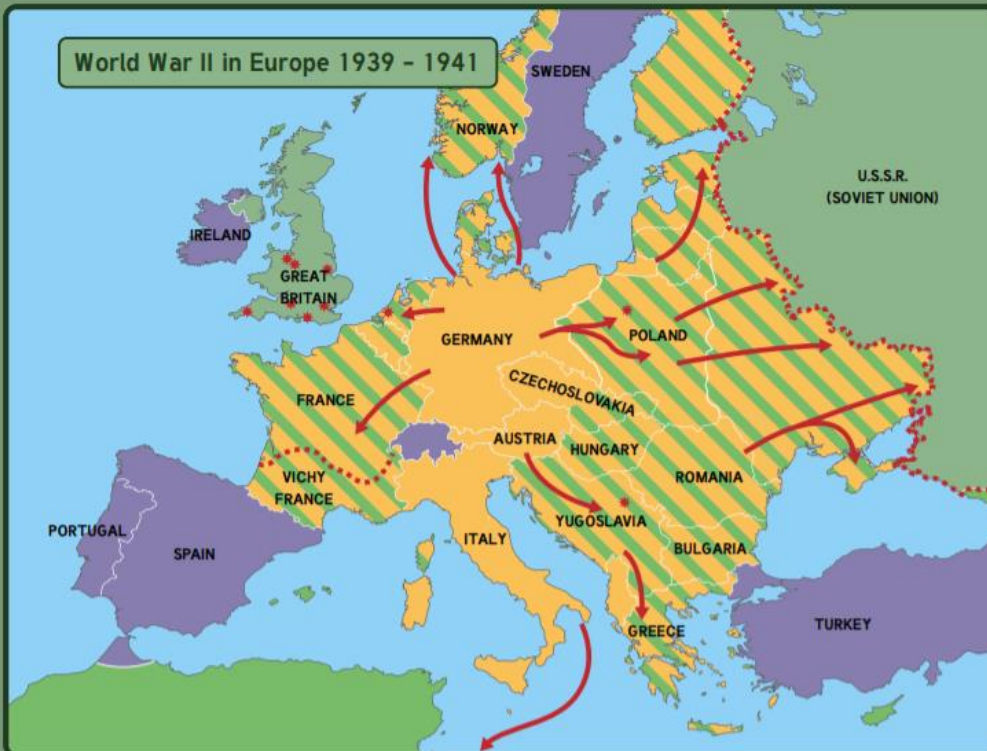
1941

Germany invaded Russia. USA joined the war.

1943

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Italy surrendered, swapped sides and declared war on Germany.

World War II in Europe 1939 – 1941



Axis

Germany, Italy and Japan

Allies

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, USSR and Yugoslavia.

Key Vocabulary

Nazi – a member of the German political party National Socialists.

Adolf Hitler – leader of Germany throughout World War 2.

Air raid – an attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft on to a ground target.

Allies – the people who were fighting along side us.

Atomic Bomb – a nuclear bomb that causes an enormous, devastating explosion.

Axis – the people we were fighting against (the enemy).

Blackout – when towns or cities are made dark so that they cannot be seen by enemy planes.

Concentration Camp – where Hitler sent Jewish people to be killed.

The Blitz

Blitz is short for the German word Blitzkrieg (lightning war). The Blitz happened from September 1940 – May 1941 when Germany frequently bombed London and other British cities. Night after night Germany would drop bombs from planes on ports, harbours and industrial areas. Over one third of London was destroyed. People were warned of an air raid by loud sirens. During the blitz, they became an almost daily part of life. When people heard the siren they would stop what they were doing and make for a shelter.



Children in WW2

Children in Britain were evacuated to the countryside to escape the bombing. They were put onto trains with a label on like they were parcels. They would live with another family in the countryside. It was a difficult time for children as they were split from their family.



What I should know by the end of the unit:

- The early events of the World War II and why World War II began
- Who Adolf Hitler was and his motive during the war
- The key leaders involved in the declaration of war
- The countries that were involved in the war and how they joined together (allies and axis)
- The process of evacuation and why it was encouraged by the government
- The difference between secondary and primary sources to interpret and gather more information about life during WWII
- The purpose behind rationing and the different foods that were rationed during WWII
- The impact of propaganda posters when campaigning rationing
- The events of the Battle of Britain and the Blitz
- The role of women during the war
- Other key important events that occurred until World War II ended

UK World War 2 Soldiers

When the war started, some men volunteered to join the army. But it was not enough. In 1940, two million British men aged between 19 and 27 were ordered to fight.

Soldiers carried a water-bottle, ammunition pouches, entrenching tool (spade), a groundsheet and a haversack containing; mess-tin, tinned rations, extra iron rations, spare socks and laces.

