



World War II

Essential Knowledge (End Points):

By the end of the unit of work the children will:

- know the main events and key dates in relation to World War II.
- know the main reasons for World War II and who was involved.
- know where the major conflicts took place in World War II.
- know what the impact of the war was like on the people of Britain.

Summary

The Second World War was the deadliest conflict the world has ever seen. It brought into opposition the countries of the Allies (France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union) and the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan). By the end of the conflict, approximately 50 million people had been killed, and the political and social organisation of the world was changed forever. The end of the war saw Communism growing in the east and a significant shift in power towards the United States in the west. The Second World War is one of the most significant events in history, and its influences are still felt in daily life today.

The Second World War was the most destructive conflict the world has ever experienced. In six years of fighting, over 50 million people died, including six million Jews in the Holocaust. The war caused the death of vast numbers of civilians as well as those fighting in the military and had a significant impact on the lives of people across the globe for decades. There were some positive legacies of the horror, however, including the creation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations brought most of the countries of the world together, with a shared commitment to avoid another global war at all costs. However, almost immediately after the end of the war, a different type of conflict, called the Cold War, began between two major superpowers.

Main Events:

1939: Germany invaded Poland
1939: Britain and France declared war on Germany
1940: British forces evacuated from Dunkirk
1941: Hitler invaded Russia
1941: The USA entered the war
1942: Mass killings began at Auschwitz
1943: German army defeated at Stalingrad, Russia
1944: D-Day: allied invasion of France
1945: Hitler committed suicide, Germany surrendered
1945: Japan surrendered after the USA dropped two atomic bombs
September 1945: Second World War ended

Vocabulary:

Communism: a political belief system
significant: important
influences: effects on what people say or do
decades: periods of ten years
evacuated: removed from a dangerous place
Holocaust: the deliberate mass murder of Jews and political prisoners by the Nazis
legacies: things left behind from the past
declaration: official announcement
dispute: argument or disagreement
rationing: limiting the amount of food, water or fuel.
evacuation: removal to a place of safety
propaganda: communication used to influence the opinions of others
amphibious: (of a military operation) with forces landing from the sea
Blitz: when a city (like London) was bombed heavily

	<p>October 1945: United Nations formed</p> <p>1947: Cold War began</p> <p>1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights agreed</p>		<p>atomic: power that is produced by splitting atoms</p>
<p>Culture & Pastimes:</p>	N/A	<p>Society:</p>	<p>In Britain, daily life changed completely as a result of the war. Rationing began in 1940 and didn't end until 1954. Major towns and cities had to be rebuilt after the German bombing raids. The post war years saw the introduction of a free National Health Service (the NHS).</p>
<p>Food & Farming:</p>	N/A	<p>Beliefs:</p>	N/A
<p>Settlements:</p>	N/A	<p>Travel & Exploration:</p>	N/A
<p>Conflict:</p>	<p>In the decades after the First World War, Europe was still under the threat of another great conflict. Hitler, the leader of the Nazi party in Germany, had come to power promising to rebuild the German army and was soon invading parts of Europe. Britain and France agreed to help Poland if it was invaded, but that didn't stop Hitler. His army moved into Poland, and the Second World War had begun. The conflict involved some of the most famous battles in history, including the Battle of Britain between the British and German air forces. Pearl Harbour was attacked by the Japanese and brought the United States into the war in 1941. The Second World War also witnessed the use of a powerful new weapon, the atomic bomb, which the USA used on two cities in Japan.</p> <p>Propaganda is a type of communication used to influence the opinions of people to support a cause or belief. Historians agree there have been many examples of propaganda throughout human history (including during the Reformation and the First World War). However, propaganda is most closely associated with the Second World War and its use by Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels as a weapon of war. Examples of propaganda include artwork, posters, speeches, films and the printed word.</p> <p>At one point, all that stood between Hitler and total control of Western Europe was Great Britain. At first, the Germans</p>	<p>Location:</p>	<p>The Second World War was a truly global conflict. The Allies and Axis powers drew more than 30 countries into the conflict. From its beginnings in Western Europe, battles raged across Europe, around the Mediterranean, in Africa and the Middle East and around the Pacific.</p>

planned an amphibious attack but decided to use their Luftwaffe (air force) to bomb Britain into surrender. What followed was one of the most critical stages of the whole war. The Battle of Britain, which took place between July and September 1940, was between the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Luftwaffe. It became one of the biggest air battles of all time, with pilots from both airforces fighting in aeroplanes like the Spitfire and Messerschmitt 109. The RAF won this battle at great cost, and Britain continued to be heavily bombed, particularly during the Blitz.

The Second World War saw the first use of a powerful and devastating weapon, the atomic bomb. Its use (by the USA in Japan) helped bring about the end of the war and showed the world just how powerful atomic weapons are. Other countries quickly set about building their own. Within a decade of the end of the war, Russia, the UK, France and China had all successfully tested their atomic bombs, and the United States had started building a weapon 1000 times more powerful – the hydrogen bomb.

The United Nations (UN) is an international organisation that tries to resolve conflicts and create positive relationships between nations. Created by 51 countries, at the end of the war in 1945, the UN is now made up of 193 nations. Despite the UN's goal of global peace and security, two of its founding members, the US and the Soviet Union, quickly found themselves in another conflict with each other. This Cold War didn't involve actual fighting but was a period of dispute and tension that meant the possibility of a nuclear war became very real.

Artefacts:

N/A

**Innovations
which influenced
the modern
world::**

N/A

Key Local Links:

Moota
Windermere – Holocaust

**Common
Misconceptions:**



	Component Statements	Extending Statements	
<p>Main Events</p> <p>To know the main events and key dates in relation to World War II</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant events in the Second World War and label them on a timeline. • WWII started in 1939 and ended in 1945. • By the end of the conflict, approximately 50 million people had been killed. • Positive legacies of the horror, included the creation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • The United Nations brought most of the countries of the world together, with a shared commitment to avoid another global war at all costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain some political and social consequences of the Second World War. • Suggest suitable sources of evidence to find out more about the Second World War. • Use a timeline to provide an overview of 20th-century conflicts. • Explain why the Second World War is such a significant event in British and global history. • List some important events that took place after the war. • How many people died during the Second World War? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate Communism. Do you agree? • The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is as important today as it was during the years after the war. • Investigate Winston Churchill.
<p>Conflicts</p> <p>To know the main reasons for World War II and who was involved.</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The war began when Germany invaded Poland in 1939. • The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom, in 1940 and 1941, during the Second World War. • Information about Adolf Hitler. • Propaganda was a characteristic feature of the Second World War, as it was used as a type of communication used to influence the opinions of people to support a cause or belief. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List the Axis powers. • Suggest some reasons why the German air force was used to invade Britain. • Write a list of ten major Second World War battles. Which ones do you think were the most important and why? • What were the consequences of the use of atomic weapons at the end of the Second World War? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True or false? The Battle of Britain was more important than the evacuation of Dunkirk. Justify your answer with evidence. • Justify whether the events of the First World War made another global conflict inevitable. • Hitler believed propaganda was a major reason why the German army lost the First World War. Do you agree?
<p>Location</p> <p>To know where the major conflicts took</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the major battles in WWII including the Battle of Britain between the British and German air forces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest how Britain's location contributed to the outcome of the conflict. • Give an overview of the founding of the United Nations. Use a map to help you. • Use a map to identify the low countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using multiple sources of evidence, including maps, investigate the evacuation of British forces at Dunkirk.

<p>place in World War II.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearl Harbour was attacked by the Japanese and brought the United States into the war in 1941. • UN created by 51 countries, at the end of the war in 1945, the UN is now made up of 193 nations. • Some of the founding nations of the United Nations were: China, France, USA, UK, USSR, Argentina, Brazil etc. 		
<p>Society</p> <p>To know what the impact of the war was like on the people of Britain.</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationing is to ensure fair shares for all at a time of national shortage. • Rationing began in 1940 and didn't end until 1954. • Everyday life in Britain was changed as a result of the war. • 'NHS' stands for National Health service and it was created in post war years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the United Nations with the League of Nations. • Explain how new technology was used during the Second World War. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate some of the changes that took place in Britain in the decade after the end of the Second World War.