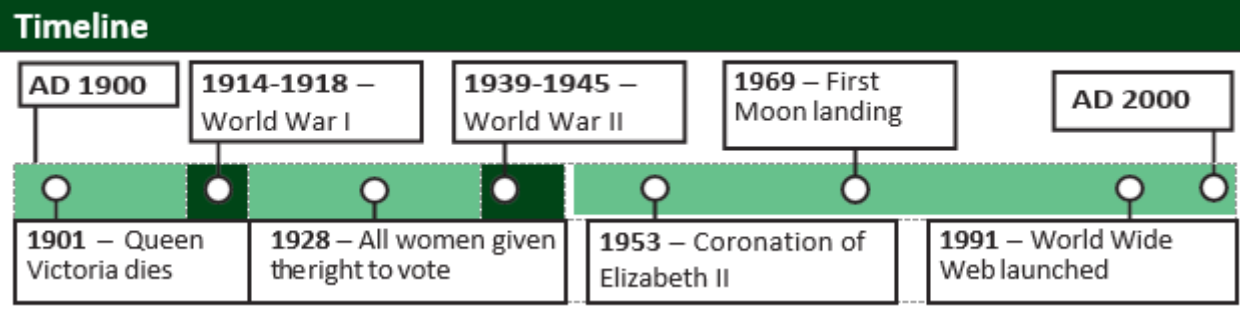




## Blitzed Britain



**How Did World War II Begin?**

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and **annexed** 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.

**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**. Even before the war, they wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used **propaganda** to promote widespread public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against.

Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.

Key Events		
1939	1 <sup>st</sup> September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 <sup>th</sup> May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Allied</b> forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 <sup>th</sup> July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 <sup>th</sup> September	The Blitz begins.
1941	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbour in the US.
1943	16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6 <sup>th</sup> June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Germany surrenders to the <b>Allies</b> .
	6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> August	The US drops <b>atomic bombs</b> on two cities in Japan.

## Blitzed Britain



Evacuees



Rationing



The Blitz

### Key facts

Hitler hoped that bombing the cities of Britain would affect the morale of the British people and make them think they could not win the war.

About 3 million people were evacuated from the cities during WW2.

Before the war, most food and goods were imported to Britain by air or sea. This was not possible once the war began so rationing was put in place to ensure everyone got a fair share. People were encouraged to grow as much food as possible so the country could be self-sufficient.

As so many men were overseas serving in the army, many women took over jobs in industry, farming and driving that were usually done by men.

The Home Guard was formed from volunteers: mostly men who were either too young or too old to serve in the armed forces. Their job was to help protect Britain from invasion by Germany.

At one point during the Blitz, London was bombed every night, apart from one night, for eleven weeks.

Many families built air raid shelters in their gardens where they stayed during bombing raids. Other people sheltered in tube stations.

The major cities of London, Liverpool, Sheffield and Bristol were targeted by the German bombers during the Blitz because they were important places for the manufacture of weapons.

Due to the high risk from bombs in large cities, many children were evacuated to the country, where it was thought they would be safe.

The German air force was called the Luftwaffe.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Allies</b>	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
<b>Axis</b>	The <b>Axis</b> Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
<b>Nazi party</b>	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
<b>atomic bomb</b>	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
<b>annex</b>	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
<b>Czechoslovakia</b>	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
<b>propaganda</b>	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
<b>active service</b>	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

