

WW2

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser



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.

Key facts

- Together with the Nazi Party, Adolf Hitler wanted to rule Europe.
- On 1st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland and began WW2.
- The war had two sides: the Allies and the Axis powers.
- It's estimated that 55 million people died.
- The Battle of Britain was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air using aeroplanes.
- It was Japan that officially ended the war on 2nd September 1945.



September 1939 –
The mass evacuation of children and other vulnerable people took place.

10th May 1940 –
Winston Churchill came to power.



8th September 1943 –
Italy surrenders after defeat looks more likely for Germany.

7th May 1945 –
With Hitler dead, Germany surrenders.

3rd September 1939 –
Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declares war on Germany after they invade Poland.



January 1940 –
Rationing began due to a shortage of food and to ensure fair shares of food for all.

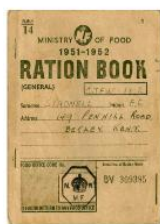
7th September 1940 – 11 May 1941 – The Blitz – a campaign of aerial bombing attacks on British towns and cities carried out by the Luftwaffe (German Air Force).



6th June 1944 – D day – Allied troops land in Northern France to take it back from Germany.

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. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible.



The role of women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.



Key vocabulary

Allies	Countries which fought on Britain's side.
Axis	Countries which fought on Germany's side.
Nazi Party	German political party lead by Adolf Hitler.
Blitz	Aerial bombing by Germany on the UK. Mainly carried out on cities including London.
Rationing	The controlled distribution of food and clothes.
Air raid shelter	A building to protect people from bombs. Often made from corrugated iron and usually found in people's gardens.
Holocaust	The murder of Jewish people and other groups by the Nazis.
Evacuee	Someone who was moved from a dangerous place to be safer.
Black out	Ensuring no lights were visible after dark so buildings couldn't be spotted.
Trenches	A long narrow ditch used for troops to shelter from enemy attack.

Anne Frank

Anne and her family were Jewish. The Nazis believed that Jewish people were to blame for Germany's problems. The Nazis' treatment of Jewish people became worse and worse. People were being forced to leave their homes and go and live



in concentration camps. During what is known as The Holocaust, lots of Jewish people were killed in WW2 because of their religion. In 1942 Anne and her family moved to The Netherlands and hid in a secret Annex to avoid being captured by the Nazis. It was in this Annex that Anne wrote her famous diary detailing her experience of hiding from the Nazis. In August 1944, Anne and her family were captured and she died in 1945 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. By reading Anne's words, people can learn and understand what life was like for Jewish people under Nazi rule.