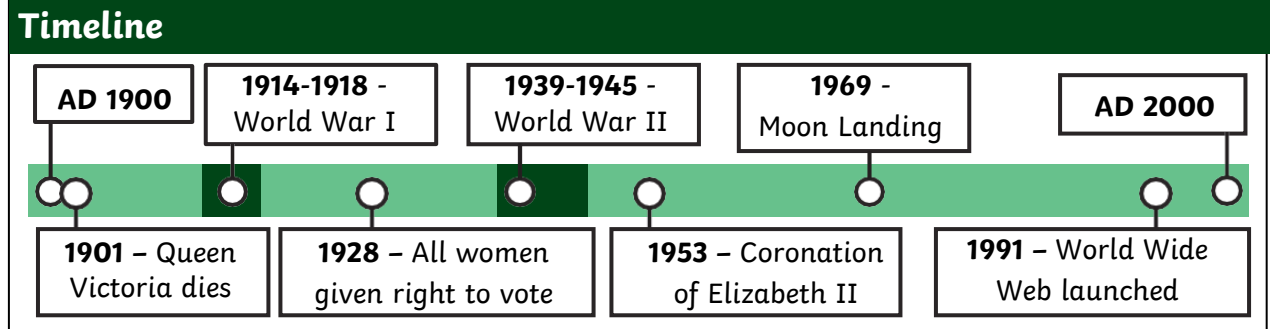


Key Events		
1939	1 st September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 th July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 th September	The Blitz begins.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



Evacuation

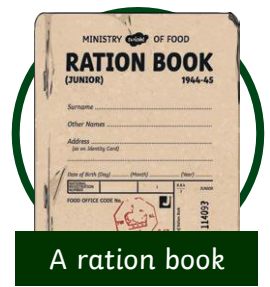
During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

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.

Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.



Key Vocabulary

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

How Did World War II Start?

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.

Kristallnacht

On the night of November 9–10, 1938, Nazis attacked Jewish persons and property throughout Germany and Austria. This massive campaign of anti-Jewish violence is known as Kristallnacht, meaning "Crystal Night" in German. The name refers ironically to the litter of broken glass left in the streets after the violence. The night is also called the Night of Broken Glass or the November Pogroms. (A pogrom is an organized mob attack against a group of people, especially Jews). The violence continued during the day of November 10, and in some places acts of violence continued for several more days. Kristallnacht marked a new and terrifying level of Nazi persecution of the Jews.

Kindertransport

Kindertransport was the name given to the mission which took thousands of children to safety ahead of World War Two (1939-1945).

It helped 10,000 children to escape from Adolf Hitler's reign of terror in parts of Europe controlled by the Nazis.

It is called this as kinder means 'children' in German.

It was an extremely difficult experience for these children as they were told that they would need to leave their family and friends behind - and there was a chance they might never see them again. Their parents were not allowed to go with them.