

Year 9 HT 4 – World War 2

World War 2 was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. During this time period, there were numerous events happening both in the UK and around the world.

In the UK, the government began to take measures to prepare for the war as early as 1936. The government's preparations led to the evacuation of millions of children from large cities to rural areas in an effort to keep them safe from German bombs. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, which led to the UK declaring war on Germany on September 3, 1939, thus beginning World War 2 in Europe.

During the war, the UK was the target of numerous bombings by the German Luftwaffe in what became known as the Blitz. This resulted in significant damage to cities like London, Coventry, and Liverpool, with thousands of civilians killed or injured.

The UK also played an important role in the war effort, with the Royal Air Force playing a key role in the Battle of Britain in 1940. The country also provided troops for the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944.

Outside of the UK, there were numerous other key events happening around the world during World War 2. In 1941, for example, Japan attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, drawing the US into the war. This led to a series of battles in the Pacific, including the Battle of Midway in 1942 and the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.

In Europe, the war saw the rise of fascist regimes, with Nazi Germany led by Adolf Hitler seeking to conquer and dominate much of the continent. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union, led by Joseph Stalin, battled against the Germans in what was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

The end of the war saw the dropping of atomic bombs by the US on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to Japan's surrender on August 15, 1945, and the signing of a peace treaty on September 2, 1945.

By learning about these key historical events and their interrelation, students can develop their understanding of chronology and how different events in history impact one another.

Further reading:

Fiction:

"Carrie's War" by Nina Bawden - A classic children's story about two evacuees, Carrie and her brother who were sent to Wales during the WW2.

Non fiction:

"The Blitz: An Eyewitness History" by Julian Thompson - A comprehensive and detailed account of the Blitz, the bombing campaign of London and other cities by the German Luftwaffe.