

Key dates

1st September 1939 - Germany invades Poland

3rd September 1939 - Britain and France declare war on Germany

7th January 1940 - Rationing of food begins

6th June 1944 - D-Day

7th May 1945 - Germany Surrenders

8th May 1945 - VE Day

2nd September 1945 - End of WWII (Japan surrenders)

4th July 1954 - Rationing ends

Key questions

How does life in Britain during WW2 compare to life in Britain now?

Should we always believe what is shared in the media? How do we know life was difficult for the British people during WW2?

Can you explain why Britain and France declared war on Germany?

Can you summarise the precautions taken by civilians to stay safe?

World War 2



Year 5

Key Vocabulary to learn

Axis- Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia (1939-1941))

Allies - Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941-1945))

Nazi - Member of the German political party which came to power in 1933

Evacuation- Organised movement of children and the vulnerable from towns and cities to safe zones

Evacuee- Someone who was evacuated moved from a danger area to a safer place.

Black out- System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes

Rationing- The controlled distribution of scarce resources (food/clothing)

Blitz- Series of bombing raids on the UK

Propaganda- Controlling news media (such as radio) to show your side in the best way

Gas mask- Face mask to protect people against poison gas

Air raid- An attack by planes dropping bombs

Air raid shelter- A building to protect people from bombs

Anderson Shelter: Made of corrugated iron. Usually at the end of the garden

Morrison Shelter: Metal cage used inside the house. Could double as a kitchen table

Key Figures

Adolf Hitler- Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany 1933- 1945.

Winston Churchill- Prime Minister 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955

Neville Chamberlain- Prime Minister May 1937 to May 1940

King George VI- Monarch 11 December 1936 - 6 February 1952. Father of Elizabeth II