



# History Knowledge Organiser

Year: 9

Topic: World War Two

Half term: Spring 1

- After WW1, Germany faced financial ruin and had strict measures implemented with the Treaty of Versailles to try and prevent another war.
- Hitler rose to power on the back of making Germany great again and undoing what the rest of the world had inflicted on them after WW1.
- Similarly, the UK Prime Minister followed a policy of 'appeasement' which meant that he gave in to a lot of Hitler's demands and ignored a lot of his behaviour in the lead up to the invasion of Poland.
- Germany and Italy joined forces and allowed each other to invade lots of different countries.
- All of this worked together to push England and France to promise Poland that they would intervene if they were invaded (which happened in 1939).

## Homework tasks

1. Learn the key words and their definitions.
2. Design your own KO using the knowledge gained in your lessons.
3. Read or watch a survivor testimony and write about the survivor and their story.
4. Choose one of the topics we have covered in this unit and teach a family member. Ask them to write a review of what you have told them.

Submit your homework to your class teacher for achievement points!



## Key Events

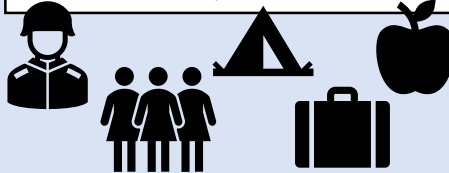
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland.
September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (start of WW2)
January, 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK
May to June, 1940	Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany Germany uses blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe
July, 1940	Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain (The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begin)
December 7, 1941	The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies.
June 6, 1944	D-Day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.
April 30, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
May 7, 1945	Germany surrenders and victory in Europe is declared the next day
August 1945	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan by the US killing approximately 226,000 people
September 2, 1945	Japan surrenders signalling the end of WW2
July, 1954	Rationing ends in the UK

## Battles

Battle of Britain	The RAF managed to successfully fight off the German Luftwaffe air force and protect Britain from potential German invasion.
Battle of Stalingrad	The Soviets successfully kept the Germans at bay and prevented them invading Stalingrad. This (for many historians) turned the tide against Germany.
Pearl Harbor	A surprise attack on a US naval base in Hawaii by the Japanese. Over 2,400 Americans were killed and America joined the war in response
Dunkirk	The successful evacuation of British and French troops from Dunkirk prevented them from being killed by oncoming Nazi invasion.
D-Day	The operation that liberated France from German occupation and drove the Germans back to trap them against Soviet forces and end the Nazi regime.
Hiroshima	In response to Pearl Harbor, the US dropped an atomic bomb on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki and ended fighting related to WW2.

## The Home Front:

- Significant changes occurred in Great Britain to accommodate the war effort and support the troops fighting on the front lines.
- Evacuation
- Rationing
- Conscription
- Women at work
- Anderson shelters were built in gardens and communal spaces



## Suggested Reading

- **Women Heroes of WW2** by Kathryn Atwood
- **WW2 A short history** by Norman Stone
- **Spitfire Girl: an extraordinary tale of courage in WW2** by Diana Mackintosh and Douglas Thompson
- **Code Name Helene** by Ariel Lawhorn