



Key Dates

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 begins) Germany, Italy and Japan create the axis alliance
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.
May 7, 1945	Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day
August 1945	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & 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



Diagrams and Pictures



Above left: Enigma machine
Above right: Swastika (symbol of Nazis)

Below: Remains of a house after a bombing raid during the Blitz



Significant Individuals

Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945 (also referred to as the Führer meaning leader)
Winston Churchill	UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955)
Neville Chamberlain	UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 (infamous for failed attempts to satisfy Hitler's demands prior to the war)
Franklin D. Roosevelt	US President, 1933 - 1945 (took the US into the war following the Pearl Harbour attacks)
Harry S. Truman	US President, 1945 - 1953 (responsible for the decision to drop Atomic bombs on Japan)
Joseph Stalin	General Secretary of the Communist Party and Leader of the USSR, 1929 - 1953

Can you find the answers to these questions?

- Who wrote in her diary about hiding from the Nazis?
- How did people know there was an air raid?

Vocabulary

Evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place (normally from the cities to rural areas)
Gas mask	A protective mask used to cover a person's face as a defence against poison gas.
Air Raid Shelter	A building to protect people from bombs dropped by planes. Anderson Shelter: Made of corrugated iron. Usually at the end of the garden Morrison Shelter: Metal cage used inside the house.
Occupation	The action, state, or period of occupying or being occupied by military force.
Refugee	A person who has been forced to leave their country to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia)
Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia)
Blackout	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes.
Blitzkrieg	Translated as 'lightning war'. German quick strike invasion of Western Europe
Nazi	Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933. Symbol = swastika
Discrimination	The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people
Rationing	The act of allowing each person to have only a fixed amount of certain items.
Luftwaffe	The German Air Force (responsible for the Blitz)
Liberation	The action of setting someone free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression
Propaganda	The spreading of information in support of a cause
Fascism	Right wing political view associated with not allowing opposition and total control by a dictator.



Topic: World War II

Phase: Year 6/KS2