





World War II



Timeline

1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945	1945
On 1st September Germany invades Poland	On 3rd September England declares war on Germany	10th May Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister	12th May German forces enter France	USA declares war on Italy & Germany	British troops win back North Africa	Italy surrenders to the Allies	6th June D-Day landings on Normandy beaches	Hitler commits suicide	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6th August	Japan surrenders on 2nd September and the end of war declared

Key Vocabulary

Anderson shelter	Half buried in the ground and with earth on top, they protected people from bomb blasts.
blackout	All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.
Blitz	The sustained aerial bombing against Britain by Nazis. Blitz means lightning in German.
evacuee	Designed to protect people, especially children, by moving them to areas of less risk.
gas mask	Issued to all civilians at the start of the war, gas masks were used to protect from gas attacks.
Kristallnacht	On 9th-10th November 1939, Nazis torched synagogues and vandalised Jewish homes.
Nazis	Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled Germany between 1933 and 1945.
rations	Ration cards were given out and only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.
star of David	Jews throughout Europe were forced to wear the star of David to clearly identify themselves.
swastika	An ancient symbol of a cross with arms at a right angle, used as an emblem for the Nazi Party.

The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air (known as dog fighting). It was made up of lots of air battles that lasted from 10 July-31 October 1940.

General Knowledge

Who and Why?

Allies: Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, China and USA

Axis Powers: Germany, Italy and Japan

70 million people lost their lives (24 million from the Soviet Union).

France and England declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland and the USA joined the war effort after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

The Jewish Community

Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust. Racist in his views, Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German people and society.

Home Guard

Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against German invasion, members of this 'Dad's Army' were usually men above or below the age of conscription and those unfit or ineligible for front line military service. 1.5 million enrolled and supported the ear effort through bomb disposal, manning anti-aircraft artillery and readied for invasion.

Famous Figures

Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)

British Prime Minister from 1937-1940; Chamberlain was Prime Minister when Britain declared war on Germany.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

British Prime Minster from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party

Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)

Italian dictator during World War II, and leader of the Fascists. Joined forces with Hitler as one of the Axis powers.

Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945)

United States President during most of WWII.

Joseph Stalin (1878-1953)

Leader of the Soviet Union during World War II

Hideki Tojo (1884-1948)

Japanese leader and military general