

World War II

What was it like to be a child during the war?

Topic Overview: Key Events (invasion)

1939	1 st September	German troops invade Poland. Britain and France gave Germany notice to withdraw their troops and they did not.
	3 rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany
1940	10 th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk. Large numbers of British, French and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers on the north coast of France. 800 British boats set out and rescued many of them.
	10 th July	The Battle of Britain begins. The Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended Britain from Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe planes.
	7 th September	The Blitz begins.
1941	22 nd June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union)
	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbour (a naval base in Hawaii in the United States. This was a surprise military attack and led to the US joining the Allies in the war.
1943	16 th & 17 th May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out. This was a daring raid by RAF pilots to bomb and destroy three dams in Germany.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings. These were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe.
1945	7 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies.
	6 th & 9 th August	The United States drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan, when Japan refused to surrender.
	15 th August	Japan surrendered and the war ended on 2 nd September 1945.

Key Rulers



Neville Chamberlain

British Prime Minister at the start of WW2.



Winston Churchill

British Prime Minister from 1940-1945, and again in 1951-1955



Adolf Hitler

German politician and leader of the Nazi party (dictator).

Top Takeaways

After studying this topic you should be able to:

- Understand why WW2 started, who its leaders were and what is meant by the 'Phoney War'.
- Describe some of the key events of the war including: Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain and the Blitz.
- Discuss the evacuation of children during WW2 and how their lives changed.
- Understand the roles of men and women in the war.
- Understand the effect the war had on food and nutrition.
- Discuss the events that led to *Kindertransport* and what it was like for children.
- Explain Jewish persecution and 'Jewish laws' and know who Anne Frank was.
- Summarise the events that led to the end of WW2.



This map shows occupied Europe in 1944

Allied Powers



United Kingdom



USA



France



Soviet union

Axis Powers



Third Reich (Germany)



Italy



Japan

Key Vocabulary

air-raid	An attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.
Allies	The UK, France and Poland, later joined by the USSR, the USA and China.
Anderson shelter	A small shelter made of corrugated steel to protect people during air raids.
annex	Take another country's land and make it part of your country.
atomic bomb	A very high-energy bomb made out of radioactive material, first used in 1945.
Axis Powers	Germany, Japan and Italy (joined by other countries later)
Blitz	A long period of German air raids on Britain.
evacuation	Moving people (mostly children) to safer areas (usually from cities to the country), to keep them safe from bombs.
holocaust	The mass murder of around 6,000,000 Jewish people and other groups, by the Nazis.
invasion	When an army or country uses force to take control of another country.
Luftwaffe	The Germany air force during WW2.
Nazi	Short for the Nationalist Socialist Party in Germany, led by Adolf Hitler.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
rationing	Controlling the supply of scarce resources, mainly food and clothing.

