



WORLD WAR II

Which countries were involved in WWII?

What do we already know about war?

- World War I began in 1914 and ended in 1918.
- Many countries were involved including Germany, Great Britain, France, Austria, Russia, Hungary and Italy.
- Remembrance is commemorated each year on the 11th November to remember those who lost their lives during conflicts.
- Wars can have many causes and consequences.

Who were the key figures in World War II?

- Adolf Hitler (Germany)
- Winston Churchill (Great Britain)
- Chamberlain (Great Britain)
- Stalin (USSR)
- Tojo (Japan)
- Roosevelt (USA)



What were the causes of World War II?

Germany lost WWI, as part of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to give up lands and was banned from having an army of it's own. Also Germany had to pay lots of money (reparations) to Britain and France for starting WWI. By 1928, after The Great Depression, Germany had no money to support it's people. There was huge unemployment and lots of people were starving.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the leader of Germany. He wanted to make Germany a strong country again. He began to build up a huge army- this was illegal. He wanted Germany to be a superpower, by 1935 he had achieved this.

In 1939, Hitler order Germany to invade: Poland, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Norway and Finland.

These countries were forced to live under German rule- those who disagreed were shot. Hitler also did not like Jewish people, he arrested them and put them in special camps (concentration camps)

War was declared in 1939.



What was the Battle of Britain?

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as dogfights. Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7th September 1940 (the start of the Blitz). On 15th September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is commemorated every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.

What did citizens do to keep safe during the war?

People needed to protect themselves from the bombs being dropped by German aircraft, especially during the Blitz. The government gave out Anderson and Morrison shelters free to people who earned below £5 per week. Men who earned more than £5 a week could buy one for £7. By September 1939, one and a half million Anderson shelters had been put up in gardens. The Anderson Shelters were dark and damp and people were reluctant to use them at night.

What was evacuation?

Who was evacuated?

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them. Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.



Key Vocabulary

warfare

Engagement in or the activities involved in war or conflict.

evacuation

The process of moving people away from an area where they are in danger, to a safer area.

propaganda

Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.

axis of power

The countries who were fighting against the allies.

allies

The countries who were fighting along side Great Britain.

Luftwaffe

The name for the air force of Germany.

Spitfire

British single-seat fighter aircraft.