

### Did you know?

In total WWII claimed the lives of approximately 60 million people.

The Holocaust claimed the lives of six million Jews.

# WORLD WAR 2

## Year 6 Autumn Term

### How did WWII start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

### Evacuation

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.

### Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible. Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'



### Key Vocabulary

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| allies           | The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China. |
| Anderson shelter | a small prefabricated air-raid shelter of a type built in the UK during the Second World War.  |
| Nazi party       | A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler  |
| Atomic bomb      | A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material   |
| blackout         | a period when all lights must be turned out or covered to prevent them being seen by the enemy during an air raid                                  |
| propaganda       | Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion  |
| evacuee          | a person evacuated from a place of danger.   |
| invade           | (of an armed force) enter (a country or region) so as to subjugate or occupy it  |
| liberate         | set (someone) free from imprisonment, slavery, or oppression   |

### The role of women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.



### Significant people

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945): German leader  
 Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940): British Prime Minister  
 Winston Churchill (1874-1965): British Prime Minister  
 Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970): French leader



### Timeline

|      |                    |   |
|------|--------------------|---|
| 1939 | 1st September      | German troops invade Poland   |
|      | 3rd September      | Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declares war on Germany            |
| 1940 | 10th May           | Winston Churchill becomes the new Prime Minister.                     |
|      | 27th May           | 340,000 French and British troops are evacuated from Dunkirk.         |
|      | 10th July          | The Battle of Britain begins.   |
| 1941 | 7th September      | The London Blitz begins.  |
|      | 22nd June          | Germany invades the USSR  |
|      | 7th December       | Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.                                   |
| 1942 | 8th December       | The United States declare war on Japan..                              |
|      | 20th April         | Jews massacred by the Germans at the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland          |
| 1944 | 16th and 17th May  | The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.                           |
|      | 6th June           | The British and US troops land in Normandy called the D-Day landing.. |
| 1945 | 8th May            | Germany surrenders to the allies: VE Day.                             |
|      | 6th and 9th August | The first atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima by the US.              |
|      | 2nd September      | Japan surrenders. WWII is over.                                       |

My notes...

**Significant People**

Who were the key figures that shaped the world in this period?

**Community**

How has this historical period affected our local area?

**Equality & Justice**

How were different groups of people treated during this time?

**Environmental Responsibility**

What legacy did this period leave behind and how are we preserving it?