

Keep Calm and Carry On

Knowledge Organiser



Key Question: Were there any true winners from WW2?
Key Concepts: Resilience and Teamwork

Key Vocabulary	
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941-1945))
evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place (normally from the cities to rural areas)
black out	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes
rationing	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (mainly food & clothing)
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. Could double as a kitchen table
trenches	A long, narrow ditch used for troops to shelter from enemy fire or attack
Home guard	Volunteers who defended the five thousand miles of Britain coastline in the event of an invasion by Germany
Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia (1939-1941))
fascism	Right wing political view associated with not allowing opposition and total control by a dictator.
Nazi	Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933. Symbol = swastika
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis
Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on the UK, mainly cities including London, Bristol & Nottingham
blitzkrieg	Translated as 'lightning war'. German quick strike invasion of Western Europe
Luftwaffe	The German Air Force (responsible for the Blitz)
Enigma	A machine used by the Nazis to send coded messages
propaganda	The spreading of information in support of a political cause which was often misleading or biased

Date	Key events
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland
September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (<i>start of WW2</i>)
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 (<i>The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begins</i>) Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact creating 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. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans
April 30, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
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 signaling the end of WW2
July, 1954	Rationing ends in the UK

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

'History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.'
Churchill

'It is not truth that matters, but victory' – Hitler (performing Nazi salute above)

Swastika (*symbol of Nazis*)

ALLIED POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Death Toll
FRANCE	3rd Sep, 1939	600,000 1.44% of population in 1939
UK	3rd Sep, 1939	450,900 0.94% of population in 1939
SOVIET UNION	22nd Jun, 1941	approx. 24,000,000 13.7% of population in 1939
USA	8th Dec, 1941	419,400 0.32% of population in 1939

AXIS POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Death Toll
GERMANY	1st Sep, 1939	approx. 7,200,000 8.5% of population in 1939
ITALY	11th Jun, 1940	approx. 500,000 1.14% of population in 1939
HUNGARY	27th Jun, 1941	464,000 5.08% of population in 1939
JAPAN	7th Dec, 1941	approx. 3,000,000 4.1% of population in 1939

Talking points to discuss at home:
Why did WW2 begin? What was life like in Britain during WW2? Can children grow up happily when their country is at war? How far would you go to protect our way of life? Would you have gone to war? Should we always believe what we are told in the media? After so much hurt, why are wars still taking place in our world today? How did Britain change/remain the same after the War?