



# Year 5 History Knowledge Organiser:

## World War II

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
Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia (1939-1941))
Nazi	Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933. Symbol = swastika
Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on the UK, mainly cities including London, Bristol & Nottingham
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis
Blitzkrieg	Translated as 'lightning war'. German quick strike invasion of Western Europe
Luftwaffe	The German Air Force (responsible for the Blitz)

### World War II in Europe 1939–1941



Date	Key events
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland
September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (start of WW2)
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 (The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begins) Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact creating the axis alliance
December 7, 1941	The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbour. 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 signalling the end of WW2
July, 1954	Rationing ends in the UK



*'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)*

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



Above left: Enigma machine

Above right: Swastika (symbol of Nazis)

Below: Remains of a house after a bombing raid during the Blitz

