

Second World War (WW2)

Year 5/6

	Date	Key events
1	September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland
2	September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (<i>start of WW2</i>)
3	January, 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK
4	May to June, 1940	Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany Germany uses blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe
5	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
6	December 7, 1941	The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies
7	June 6, 1944	D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans
8	April 30, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
9	May 7, 1945	Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day
10	August 1945	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan by the US killing approximately 226,000 people
11	September 2, 1945	Japan surrenders signaling the end of WW2
12	July, 1954	Rationing ends in the UK

	Leaders
1	Adolf Hitler Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945 (<i>also referred to as the Führer meaning leader</i>)
2	Winston Churchill UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955)
3	Neville Chamberlain UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 (<i>infamous for failed attempts to satisfy Hitler's demands prior to the war</i>)
4	Franklin D. Roosevelt US President, 1933 - 1945 (<i>took the US into the war following the Pearl Harbor attacks</i>)
5	Harry S. Truman US President, 1945 - 1953 (<i>responsible for the decision to drop Atomic bombs on Japan</i>)
6	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)

	Term	Definition
1	Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941-1945))
2	Evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place (<i>normally from the cities to rural areas</i>)
3	Black out	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes
4	Rationing	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (<i>mainly food & clothing</i>)
5	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
6	Trenches	A long, narrow ditch used for troops to shelter from enemy fire or attack
7	Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia (1939-1941))
8	Nazi	Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933. Symbol = swastika
9	Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on the UK, mainly cities including London, Bristol & Nottingham
10	Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis
11	Fascism	Right wing political view associated with not allowing opposition and total control by a dictator.
12	Blitzkrieg	Translated as 'lightning war'. German quick strike invasion of Western Europe
13	Luftwaffe	The German Air Force (responsible for the Blitz)
14	Enigma	A machine used by the Nazis to send coded messages



Above left: Enigma machine



Above right: Swastika (symbol of Nazis)

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

