

Topic:	Year group	Term Spring
WWII	Year 4	13 sessions

Background knowledge

World War II, also called Second World War, conflict that involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939–45. The two warring sides consisted of the Axis powers — Germany, Italy, and Japan— and the Allies — France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China. The war was in many respects a continuation, after an uneasy 20-year hiatus, of the disputes left unsettled by World War I. The 40,000,000–50,000,000 deaths incurred in World War II make it the bloodiest conflict, as well as the largest war, in history.

What should I already know?

Britain has been at war in the past. Pupils will have participated in Remembrance Day activities. Some children may have had relatives that were in the war.

National Curriculum Objectives / Key Skills	The Journey
<p>Change and continuity:</p> <p>I understand what is meant by a turning point e.g. Battle of Britain in context of World War Two.</p> <p>Cause and consequence:</p> <p>I can understand that you need to give several causes to explain some events. I'm starting to move away from simply listing to giving a little detail about each cause.</p> <p>I can move away from simply listing to trying to give a little detail about each cause.</p> <p>I can understand that events usually happen for a combination of reasons.</p> <p>Characteristic features of society:</p> <p>I can grasp that people's experience of being evacuated in WWII often depended on prior experience.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What led to the outbreak of WWII? (keystagehistory.com) 2. Why was it necessary for children to be evacuated? (keystagehistory.com) 3. How was Britain able to stand firm against the German threat? (keystagehistory.com) 4. Which objects best show how Britain coped with the effect of war on the Home Front? (keystagehistory.com) 5. Why is it difficult to be sure what life was really like on the Home Front? (keystagehistory.com) 6. Just how happy were the evacuees? (keystagehistory.com) 7. What was rationing and why it was necessary? (Planbee) 8. Why did Germany lose the Battle of Britain? (keystagehistory.com) 9. What can we learn from the experiences of Jewish children

Interpretation:

I can give a simple reason why we might have more than one version of an event/memory e.g different experiences of evacuation.

I can understand that people create different versions of the past for different audiences and therefore might give a different emphasis. E.g. *a novel about evacuation was written with a different purpose and audience in mind.*

Enquiry:

I can cross-reference information to see if other sources agree, rather than taking everything at face value.

I can see that some sources are more useful than others and explain why.

I can offer reasons why some sources might be treated cautiously e.g. propaganda posters during WWII. E.g. *'How can we explain why so many children in these photographs are smiling when we learn from other sources that it was a miserable experience for many children?'*

(including Anne Frank) during the war?
(Planbee)

10. Can we trust Blitz imagery? (Planbee)

11. Was Winston Churchill an effective Prime Minister during the war?
(Planbee)

12. Ask and answer our own questions about WWII.

13. What was VE day really like?
Keystagehistory.com

Comparisons/links with other topics:

Who else has invaded Britain?

Discussion can take place about groups of people that have attempted, successfully or unsuccessfully, to invade Britain. Hitler attempts to invade Britain, codenamed 'Operation Sealion', culminated in the Battle of Britain. Discussion can take place about how the Romans tried and eventually succeeded in taking over Britain. The Battle of Britain itself can be discussed and compared to the Spanish Armada invasion. How was it similar? How was it different? Children can be given the opportunity to speculate on what might've happened had Britain lost the Battle of Britain.

Outcomes

An overview of what children will know / can do

Working towards: Children are still developing their responses to meet the KPIs. They have some substantive knowledge about the topic they are studying.

Expected: Children will have demonstrated the KPIs in their work and in assessments. They have good substantive knowledge about the period they are studying.

Exceeding: Children will have demonstrated the KPIs and other historical skills in their work and assessments. They have a secure and deep substantive knowledge about the topic they are studying.

Key Vocabulary

Allied Powers - Countries that fought against the Axis Powers. Primary members included the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, France, and China.

Axis Powers - An alliance formed by Germany, Italy, and Japan. These countries wanted to expand and conquer other countries. They were opposed by the Allied Powers.

Appeasement - This was the policy of many countries when Hitler first started to take over Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia. They gave in to Hitler's demands in order to avoid going to war. When Hitler invaded Poland, they realized that appeasement would not work and France and Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Blitzkrieg - This means "lightning war" in German. Hitler would attack quickly and try to take over a country before it had time to fight back.

Concentration camp - A place where the Germans put people they did not like such as Jewish people.

D-Day - The day that United States and British forces attacked the German forces on the shores of Normandy, France. A turning point in the war as the Allies defeated the Germans.

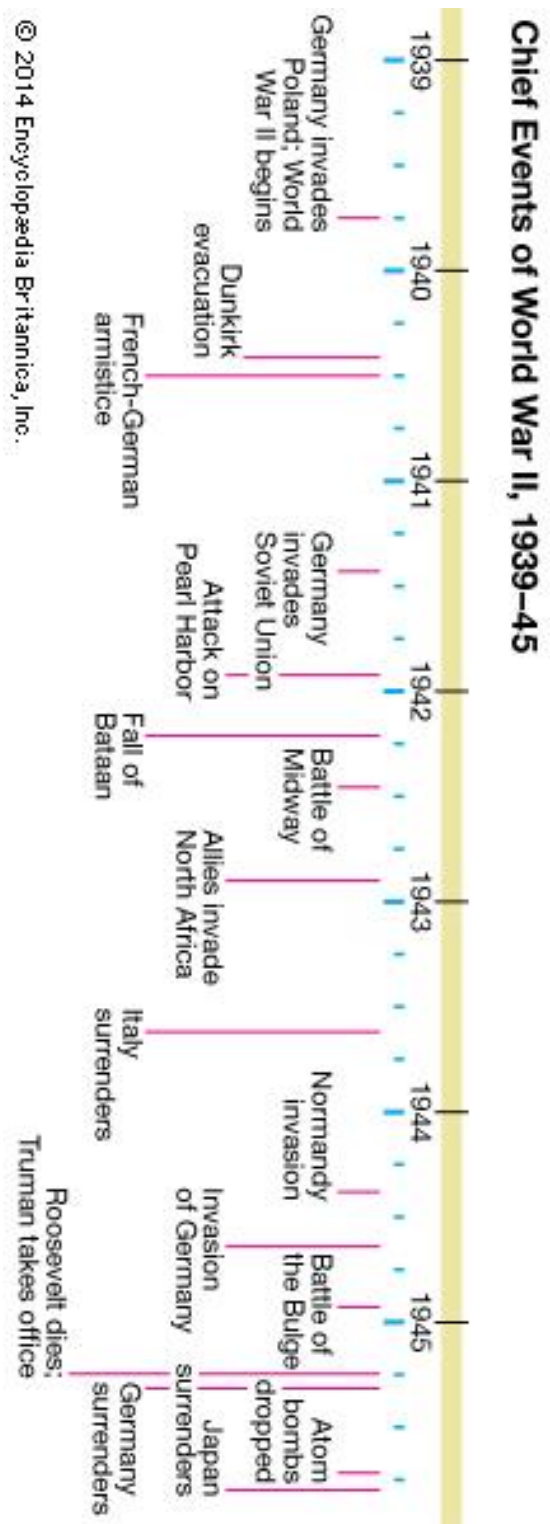
Home Front - The 'home front' covers the activities of the civilians in a nation at war.

Fascism - A type of government ruled by a dictator. Germany with Hitler and Italy with Mussolini were fascist governments.

Fuhrer - The title Adolf Hitler gave himself. It means "leader" in German.

Final Solution - A term used by the Nazis which meant the extermination of the Jews.

Timeline / Diagrams



Holocaust - A term used to describe the murder of 6 million Jewish people by the German Nazi Party.

Luftwaffe - The name for the German air force.

Nazi - The Nazi Party was a political party in Germany led by Adolf Hitler. The full name was the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party.

RAF - The air force of Great Britain. It stands for the Royal Air Force.

V.E. Day - Victory in Europe Day. The day the Allied victory in Europe was celebrated; May 8, 1945.

Wehrmacht - The name for the German army.

Key people / places

Neville Chamberlain: Neville Chamberlain, in full Arthur Neville Chamberlain, (born March 18, 1869, Birmingham, Warwickshire, England—died November 9, 1940, Heckfield, near Reading, Hampshire), prime minister of the United Kingdom from May 28, 1937, to May 10, 1940, whose name is identified with the policy of "appeasement" toward Adolf Hitler's Germany in the period immediately preceding World War II.

Winston Churchill: Winston Churchill was one of the great world leaders of the 20th century. His leadership helped Britain to stand strong against Hitler and the Germans, even when they were the last country left fighting. He is also famous for his inspiring speeches and quotes.

Adolf Hitler: Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany from 1933 to 1945. He was leader of the Nazi party and became a powerful dictator. Hitler started World War II by invading Poland and then invading many other European countries. He is also known for wanting to exterminate the Jewish people in the Holocaust.

Anne Frank: Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt, Germany on June 12, 1929. Her father, Otto Frank, was a businessman while her mother, Edith, stayed home taking care of Anne and her older sister Margot. She went into hiding with her family in Amsterdam until she was found by the Nazis.

Assessment questions / outcomes

- What caused war to break out? Which country declared war?
- Why were children evacuated? Where did they go?
- Name two ways Britain stood firm against the German threat.
- Which objects best represent life on the Home Front?
- Why did the government try to censor certain photographs?
- How did children's experiences of evacuation differ?
- Which rationed item do you think people found the hardest to go without?
- What restrictions did Jewish people face under Nazi rule?
- What qualities made Winston Churchill a good leader?
- Did you find answers to your questions? Did different websites give you the same or different answers? Why do you think this is?
- Were all VE day street parties happy events? Why? Why not?