



Discover Knowledge Organiser – YEAR 6

Britain during World War II



Event	Description	Date
Outbreak of WW2	On 1st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave Germany notice to withdraw their troops. When they did not, Neville Chamberlain declared war on 3rd September 1939	1st – 3rd September 1939
Evacuation of children	People expected cities to be bombed as the Germans tried to hit military or trade targets. This would put children in danger, so many were sent to live with families in the countryside until the war ended.	September 1939 onwards
The Holocaust	The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany before and during WW2. It involved the murder of over 6 million Jewish people and millions of others. Many people perished in concentration camps.	1933-1945
Evacuation of Dunkirk	Large numbers of British, French and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers on the northern coast of France. 800 British boats set out and rescued many of them against the odds, although many men died.	26th May – 4th June 1940
Battle of Britain	In the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended Britain from attacks by Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe planes.	10th July – 31st October 1940
The Attack on Pearl Harbour	This was a surprise military attack by the Japanese on the naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. It led to the US joining the Allies in the war.	7th December 1941
D-Day Landings	Also known as the Normandy Landings, these were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe.	6th June 1944
Hitler's Death	With the German army facing defeat, Hitler married his partner Eva Braun on the 29th April and the next day they committed suicide.	30th April 1945
Germany Surrenders	Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, bringing an end to the fighting in Europe.	7th May 1945
USA drops atomic bombs on Japan	Japan refused to surrender. The US considered invading, but instead dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6th August) and Nagasaki (9th August).	6th-9th August 1945
WW2 Ends	Japan surrendered on August 15th and this was formally signed on the 2nd September 1945.	2nd September 1945



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



Remains of a house after a bombing raid during the Blitz

Enigma machine



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



Key Vocabulary

Air Raid	An attack where bombs were dropped from the air by military aircraft.
Allies	The countries that fought against Germany, Italy & Japan in WWII.
Axis	Germany and Japan formed an axis alliance to fight against the allies.
Blackouts	Where all windows and doors were covered at night to make it more difficult for enemy aircraft during air raids.
Blitz	A term used by the Brits to describe the series of air raid attacks on Britain by the German Air-force.
Censorship	Where all letters were looked at by the military and post office workers to protect important information from being leaked to their enemies.
Civilian	A person who is not in the armed forces or in the Police Force.
Concentration Camp	A place where large numbers of people were imprisoned in a small area during WWII.
Evacuee	Children who moved from the large cities to live with other families in the country. This protected them from being bombed, where they were less at risk.
Telegram	A written or printed message transmitted by using an electrical device and delivered by people during the war
United Nations	An international organisation founded in 1945, to create and maintain peace between different countries.

Holocaust	When millions of Jews were imprisoned and killed by the German Nazis because of who they were.
Liberate	A place, country or people freed from enemy occupation.
Nazi	A National Socialist German Workers Party, led by Adolf Hitler, who ruled Germany between 1933 and 1945.
Propaganda	Stories, words, slogans and posters that were used to make their people believe in a certain way (e.g. stories against their enemies).
Rationing	Where food and other items were limited for each family each week during the War.
Refugee	Someone who has been forced to flee from their own country due to violence, persecution and war.
Stirrup Pump	A portable water pump, operated by hand, used to control or extinguish small fires during the War.

Main Participating Countries					
ALLIED POWERS			AXIS POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Flag	Country	Date Joined	Flag
FRANCE	3 rd Sep, 1939		GERMANY	1 st Sep, 1939	
UK	3 rd Sep, 1939		ITALY	11 th Jun, 1940	
SOVIET UNION	22 nd Jun, 1941		BULGARIA	1 st Mar, 1941	
USA	8 th Dec, 1941		JAPAN	7 th Dec, 1941	