

## World War II

### KS2 Knowledge Organiser



#### Key events

September 1 <sup>st</sup> 1939	Germany invades Poland.
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (start of WW2).
January 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK .
May- 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 <sup>th</sup> 1941	The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbour. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies.
June 6 <sup>th</sup> 1944	D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.
April 30 <sup>th</sup> 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide.
May 7 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 1945	Japan surrenders signalling the end of WW2.
July 1954	Rationing ends in the UK.



Key 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 Harbour 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.

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.
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.
fascism	Right wing political view associated with not allowing opposition and total control by a dictator.
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.

