

Knowledge Organiser—World War 2

Key Questions

- Why did Britain have to go to war in 1939?
- Why was it necessary for children to be evacuated and what was it really?
- How was Britain able to stand firm against the German threat?
- How did people manage to carry on normal life during the war and how do we know?
- Why is it so difficult to be sure what life on the Home Front was really like?
- What was VE Day really like?



Key Vocabulary

Adolf Hitler—leader of the Nazi Party

Neville Chamberlain—British Prime Minister at the outbreak of war

Winston Churchill—British Prime Minister

Allies—countries who fought on the British side

Axis—countries who fought on the German side

evacuee—someone evacuated (moved from an area of danger to a safe place)

Treaty—a formal agreement between countries

Air-raid shelter— a building used to protect people from bombs dropped by planes

Luftwaffe—German air force

Key Learning

After WWI, the Treaty of Versailles introduced many restrictions on Germany: land was taken, the army was limited and reparations had to be paid for war damages. It made Hitler wanting revenge. After Germany's invasion of Poland, Britain declared war on Germany on September 3rd 1939 due to the Anglo-Polish Agreement. Because of the dangers of war, children were evacuated out of city centres to the countryside for their safety. The government portrayed this in a very positive way to encourage parents to evacuate their children however not all children had this positive experience. Britons pulled together in the war effort by rationing, women going into factories, the use of air-raid shelters and gas masks, the home front and the fire-fighting service. As the war went on for many years, it meant that Britons even had to find creative ways to celebrate Christmas in their air-raid shelters. In order to keep the nation positive, the government used a range of propaganda techniques to encourage positivity across the home front, promoting a fighting spirit. After a long 6 years of fighting, when war finally ended VE Day was widely celebrated across the country as hopes of peace became reality.

SEND

Key learning should focus on key countries involved in the war, what happened to children during the war and what life was like on the home front.

Key Skills

- *Establish clear narratives within and across periods*
- *Use sense of chronology to inform wider learning*
- *Use historical perspective, an understanding of reliability/bias*
- *Select, organise and use relevant information from a range of sources to inform*

Brief Timeline

1933
Adolf Hitler became leader of Germany.

1939
Germany begin to invade countries such as Poland. On the 3rd September, Britain declared war on Germany.

1940
Germany attacked countries in Western Europe. More countries joined the war. Battle of Britain occurred.

1941
Germany invaded Russia. USA joined the war.

1942
Germany declared war on USA.

1943
Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Italy surrendered, swapped sides and declared war on Germany.

1944 - D-Day

1945
Adolf Hitler committed suicide and the German soldiers surrendered. World War 2 ended in Europe on 8th May which we now celebrate as VE Day. The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6th August. The World War ended officially on 3rd September.