



# A Child's War

Year 6 – Summer 1

This is the knowledge organiser for our topic. It includes all the learning outcomes, key facts and vocabulary. Please share this with your child to help them develop their knowledge and understanding of our topic.

### The Second World War

The Second World War lasted from 1939 to 1945. On one side were the Axis Powers (including Germany, Italy and Japan). On the other side were the Allied Powers (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA). After six years of fighting, the Allied Powers won. Children, as well as adults, were affected by the war.

### Evacuation

During the war, German planes dropped bombs on British cities in an attempt to destroy factories, dockyards and airfields but homes and schools were also hit. The government decided to evacuate children from the cities, where they might be in danger, to the countryside where they would be safer. Children who were evacuated were called evacuees. They went to live with other families who looked after them until the war ended.



### Key leaders

| Allied leaders  | Axis leaders   |
|---|--|
|  <b>Winston Churchill</b><br>Prime Minister of Great Britain   |  <b>Adolf Hitler</b><br>Leader of Germany           |
|  <b>Charles de Gaulle</b><br>President of France               |  <b>Benito Mussolini</b><br>Prime Minister of Italy |
|  <b>Joseph Stalin</b><br>Leader of the Soviet Union            |  <b>Michinomiya Hirohito</b><br>Emperor of Japan    |
|  <b>Franklin D Roosevelt</b><br>President of the United States |  |

### The Blitz

The intense and sudden bombing of British cities was called the Blitz. Sirens were sounded in the streets to warn civilians that bombers were coming. To escape the bombs, people went into air raid shelters. Weeks of sustained bombing raids killed thousands of people and destroyed many homes and cities.

### Air raid shelters

Many people built air raid shelters, called Anderson shelters, in their gardens. These were made from corrugated steel panels with soil spread over the top. Some people, who didn't have gardens, made a Morrison shelter inside their homes. This shelter looked like a steel table with wire mesh around the sides.

### Second World War timeline

**Before the Second World War**

- 1934 19th August** Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazi party, becomes the leader of Germany.
- 1936 March** German troops break the Treaty of Versailles when they occupy the Rhineland.
- 1938 12th March** Austria becomes part the German Empire, which is known as the Third Reich.

**During the Second World War**

- 1939 1st September** The Second World War begins when Germany invades Poland.
- September** In the first three days of evacuation, 1.5 million children and vulnerable adults leave British cities.
- 1940 8th January** Rationing starts.
- 10th July–31st October** The Battle of Britain takes place.
- 7th September** The Blitz begins.
- 1941 10th May** The Blitz ends.
- 7th December** Japanese planes bomb the American naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, leading to the United States entering the war.
- 1944 6th June** Allied troops land in Normandy, France to free western Europe from German control (D Day).
- 1945 January** Allied forces begin to free prisoners of war from German concentration camps.
- 30th April** Adolf Hitler commits suicide.
- 8th May** Germany surrenders. The Second World War in Europe ends (Victory in Europe Day).
- 26th July** Clement Attlee replaces Winston Churchill as Prime Minister of Great Britain.
- 15th August** Japan surrenders (Victory over Japan Day). The Second World War ends.

**After the Second World War**

- 1945 24th October** The United Nations is created to make sure a world war doesn't happen again.
- 1954 4th July** Rationing ends in Britain.