

# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



**Subject:** History

**Topic:** World War II

**Year:** 6

## What should I already know?

- The difference between primary and secondary sources of information.
- The chronological order of British History and where WW2 sits within this.
- Knowledge of WW1.

## What am I going to learn?

- For almost six years from 1939 to 1945 Britain fought the toughest war it had ever experienced. World War II was total war - every person, every business, every service was involved.
- Soldier Britain did not fight alone, the war also involved many countries. World War II involved 61 countries with 1.7 billion people (three quarters of the world's population).
- Fifty million people lost their lives and hundreds of millions people were injured.

## How did it start?

- After WW1 ended in 1918, Germany had to give up land and was banned from having armed forces.
- In 1933 the German people voted for a leader named Adolf Hitler, who led a political party in Germany called the National Socialists or Nazis. Hitler promised to make his country great again and quickly began to arm Germany again and to seize land from other countries.
- Shortly before 5am on Friday 1st September, 1939, German forces stormed the Polish frontier. Tanks and motorised troops raced into the country over ground, supported by Stuka dive bombers overhead. A total of 1.25 million Germans soldiers swept into Poland.

## 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).

**Blackout:** 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.

**Nazi:** Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933.

**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.

**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.

Date	Key events
1 September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland
2 September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany ( <i>start of WW2</i> )
3 January, 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK
4 May to June, 1940	Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany Germany uses blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe
5 July, 1940	Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain ( <i>The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begins</i> ) Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact creating the axis alliance
6 December 7, 1941	The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies
7 June 6, 1944	D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans
8 April 30, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
9 May 7, 1945	Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day
10 August 1945	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan by the US killing approximately 226,000 people
11 September 2, 1945	Japan surrenders signaling the end of WW2
12 July, 1954	Rationing ends in the UK

## Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-world-war-two/zjnyscw>  
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Britain.html>  
<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/world-war-2>

*Below: Remains of a house after a bombing raid during the Blitz*



Leaders		
1	Adolf Hitler	Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945 ( <i>also referred to as the Führer meaning leader</i> )
2	Winston Churchill	UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955)
3	Neville Chamberlain	UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 ( <i>infamous for failed attempts to satisfy Hitler's demands prior to the war</i> )
4	Franklin D. Roosevelt	US President, 1933 - 1945 ( <i>took the US into the war following the Pearl Harbor attacks</i> )
5	Harry S. Truman	US President, 1945 - 1953 ( <i>responsible for the decision to drop Atomic bombs on Japan</i> )
6	Joseph Stalin	General Secretary of the Communist Party and Leader of the USSR, 1929 - 1953