



# History - World War II



Europe

Timeline										
1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945	1945
On 1 <sup>st</sup> September Germany invades Poland	On 3 <sup>rd</sup> September England declares war on Germany	10 <sup>th</sup> May Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister	12 <sup>th</sup> May German forces enter France	Germany invades Russia. USA join the war.	Germany declares war on USA.	Italy surrenders to the Allies	6 <sup>th</sup> June D-Day landings on Normandy beaches	Hitler commits suicide and Germany surrenders .VE Day 8 <sup>th</sup> May.	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Japan surrenders on 2 <sup>nd</sup> September and the end of war declared on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September.

## Key Vocabulary

- Evacuation** – Designed to protect people, especially children, by moving them to areas of less risk.
- Rationing** – Only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.
- Holocaust** – The killing of over six-million Jews before and during World War II.
- Gas Mask** – Issued to all civilians, gas masks were used to protect from gas attacks.
- Blitz** – The sustained aerial bombing against Britain by Nazis. Blitz means lightning in German.
- Blackout** – All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.
- Anderson Shelter** – Half buried in the ground and with earth on top, they protected people from bomb blasts.
- Allies** – Countries that have an agreement to support each other.
- Nazis** – Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled Germany between 1933 and 1945.
- Swastika** – An ancient symbol of a cross with arms at a right angle, used as an emblem for the Nazi Party.
- Star of David** – Jews throughout Europe were forced to wear the star of David to clearly identify themselves.

## General Knowledge

### Who and Why?

*Allies:* Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, China and USA  
*Axis Powers:* Germany, Italy and Japan

- 70 million people lost their lives (24 million from the Soviet Union).
- France and England declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland and the USA joined the war effort after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

### The Jewish Community

- Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust.
- Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German people and society.

### Home Guard

- Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against German invasion, members of this 'Dad's Army' were usually men above or below the age of conscription and those unfit or ineligible for front line military service.
- 1.5 million enrolled and supported the war effort through bomb disposal, manning anti-aircraft artillery and readied for invasion.

## Famous Figures

### Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.



### Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party



### Did you know?

The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air (known as dog fighting). It was made up of lots of air battles that lasted from 10 July-31 October 1940.



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