

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser **Spring** World War 2

TERMS Key Vocabulary

Allies	The allies promoted alliance as a means to defeat German, Japanese and Italian aggression.
Axis	The axis powers were Germany, Japan and Italy, who formed a military coalition against the allies.
Evacuation	Moving children to areas thought to be less at risk.
Blitz	The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'.
Blackout	To cover windows and doors at night. This was to prevent any glimmer of light from escaping and aiding enemy aircraft.
Anderson shelter	This was a small air-raid shelter which people built in their gardens in Britain.
Rationing	All sorts of essential and non-essential foods were rationed, as well as clothing, furniture and petrol.
Propaganda	Propaganda is communication that is primarily used to influence an audience and further an agenda.
Holocaust	The systematic killing of six million Jewish men, women and children and millions of others by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.
Anti-Semitism	This is a hostile behaviour towards Jews just because they are Jewish, including stereotyped views and teachings proclaiming the inferiority of Jews.



COMPARE Similarities and Differences

- Sides: Allies (Britain, USA, USSR) vs Axis (Germany, Italy, Japan).
- Leaders: Both sides had strong leaders (Churchill/Roosevelt vs Hitler/Mussolini).
- Weapons: Both used guns, tanks, planes, and ships.
- Beliefs: Allies fought for freedom/democracy; Axis wanted expansion and control.
- Technology: Both used new technology, but Axis developed rockets while Allies built the atomic bomb.
- Civilians: Both sides' civilians were affected by bombing and shortages.
- Outcome: Allies won; Axis powers were defeated.

SOURCES How We Know About WWII

- Diaries and letters from soldiers and civilians.
- Photographs and film footage recorded events.
- Government documents and military records.
- Newspapers and propaganda posters from the time.
- Survivor testimonies and interviews.
- Ruins, weapons, and artefacts studied by historians.

CHRONOLOGY Key Events of WWII

- World War II began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.
- Britain and France declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939.
- In 1940, Germany planned Operation Sea Lion to invade Britain, but it failed after the Battle of Britain.
- Also in 1940, Operation Dynamo rescued over 300,000 Allied soldiers from Dunkirk.
- In 1944, Allied forces landed in France on D-Day.
- World War II ended in 1945 after Germany surrendered.

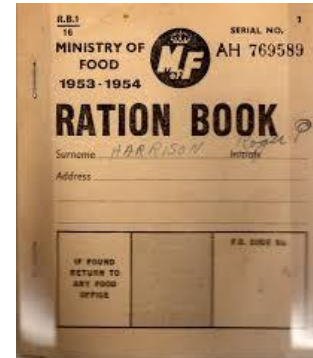


Hitler's Rise to Power

- After World War I, Germany lost the war and had to sign the Treaty of Versailles.
- The treaty forced Germany to pay reparations, which caused poverty and unemployment.
- Many Germans were angry and wanted strong leadership.
- Adolf Hitler joined the Nazi Party and gave powerful speeches blaming others for Germany's problems.
- He promised to end reparations, create jobs, and make Germany strong again.
- In 1933, Hitler became Chancellor of Germany.
- He quickly removed opposition, took away freedoms, and turned Germany into a dictatorship.

Extra Facts

- Many children were evacuated from cities to the countryside to keep them safe.
- Anne Frank was a Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis and wrote a diary about her life.
- Cities in Britain were bombed during the Blitz.
- Coventry was heavily bombed in 1940, and its cathedral was badly damaged.
- People used air-raid shelters to protect themselves from bombs.
- Rationing meant families had limited food and clothing.



D-DAY AND VE DAY

D-Day marks the turning point in WW2, where the allied forces began to win their fight against the axis powers. VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day. It marks the end of the war with Germany on Tuesday 8th May 1945.