

Topic: World War II

Year 6: Summer 1



Key Vocabulary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China. .
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
Propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
active service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

Important Facts

- World War II began in 1939 and ended in 1945.
- Britain declared war on Germany due to the invasion of Poland.
- The key allies were Britain, France and the USA and the axis were Germany, Italy and Japan.
- Key cities were bombed during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz (1940-1941).
- Many children were evacuated to the countryside and there were both positive and negative experiences.
- The home front played a key role in the war: rationing, the women in factories, the home guard, firefighting, gas masks and bomb shelters etc.
- Propaganda posters were used to gain the support of the public on both sides.



Key Dates

1939	1st September	German troops invade Poland.
	3rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10th July	The Battle of Britain begins.
1941	7th September	The Blitz begins.
	22nd June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
1943	7th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
	16th and 17th May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies.
	6th and 9th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

Previous Knowledge

Crime and Punishment—Year 6