A Child's War

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.

Axis leaders

Adolf Hitler

eader of Germany

Benito Mussolini

Emperor of Japan

Prime Minister of Italy

Michinomiya Hirohito

Key leaders

Allied leaders



Winston Churchill Prime Minister of Great Britain



Charles de Gaulle President of France

Joseph Stalin Leader of the Soviet Union





Franklin D Roosevelt President of the

Evacuation

United States

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.

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.



Propaganda

Posters, radio, films and newspapers were used during the war to keep up people's spirits, celebrate Allied victories and make fun of the enemy. This was called propaganda. Propaganda was also used to persuade people to do what the government wanted, such as carry a gas mask, grow vegetables, make or mend clothes and evacuate children from the cities to the countryside.

Food and rationing

During the war, there was a shortage of some foods because ships bringing food into Britain were at risk of sinking by German submarines. Rationing was introduced in 1940, which meant that each person could only buy fixed amounts of certain foods each week. Every person was issued with a ration book, and they had to hand over coupons from their ration book, as well as money, when they went shopping. Many foods were rationed, such as butter, bacon, sugar, meat, cheese and milk, but some were not, including potatoes and fish. People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables through the 'Dig for Victory' campaign.

Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain started in July 1940 and lasted for many months. The German air force bombed Britain in an attempt to destroy Britain's Royal Air Force so they could prepare to invade Britain by sea. However, the Royal Air Force shot down many German planes and stopped Hitler's planned invasion of Britain.





Knowledge organiser



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.

Anne Frank

Anne was a German Jew who wrote a diary about her experiences during the war. When the Nazis gained control over Germany, Jews were persecuted and transported to concentration camps, so Anne moved with her family to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. When the Germans then invaded the Netherlands, Anne and her family went into hiding in a concealed room in her father's work building. Her famous diary tells her story while in hiding.



Glossary

Allied Powers	Countries Soviet Unio fight the A
Axis Powers	Countries Japan) tha Allied Pow
civilian	A person w armed for
concentration camp	A place wh especially . killed.
evacuee	A child or v away from which was
invade	To enter or
Nazi	A follower Nazi party.
persecute	To treat so
propaganda	Biased nev used to inf
rationing	The limited other good
Rhineland	An area of along the f
Treaty of Versailles	A peace tro punished (War.

(including Britain, France, the ion and the USA) that united to Axis Powers.

(including Germany, Italy and at united to fight against the vers.

who was not in the police or ces.

here large numbers of people, Jews, were held and often

vulnerable adult who was sent n a city to live in the countryside, s considered safer.

or occupy a country by force.

of Adolf Hitler, leader of the

meone cruelly or unfairly.

ws, media and communication, fluence people's opinions.

ed supply of food, clothes and ds to prevent shortages.

[•] western Germany that runs River Rhine.

reaty signed in 1919 that Germany for the First World

