

Year 6 History Knowledge Organiser: World War Two



Montpelier Primary School

Subject Specific Vocabulary		Key Knowledge
axis powers	Countries which fought on the German side (Italy and Japan)	<p>1. World War Two was a battle between two groups of countries (Allied powers vs Axis powers).</p> <p>2. Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi party, wanted Germany to rule Europe. In order to gain more land and power, on 1st September German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun.</p> <p>3. The Battle of Britain began on 19th July 1940. Germany bombed Great Britain in order to try and defeat the Royal Air Force (RAF).</p> <p>4. Neville Chamberlain was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom until May 1940 and then Winston Churchill took over from May 1940 until 1945.</p> <p>5. Rationing was introduced at the beginning of 1940 in Britain. Every member of the public was given a ration book.</p> <p>6. <i>During the course of the war, German forces advanced through Europe. By the summer of 1941 they had invaded France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and the USSR.</i></p> <p>7. <i>During the Battle of Britain, from September 1940- May 1941, night-time bombing raids against London and other British cities commenced. This was called the Blitzkrieg (the Lightning War).</i></p> <p>8. The US didn't join the war until 1941, when Japan attacked the United States at their Naval Base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. On 8 December 1941 (the very next day), the US declared War on Japan and, in turn, its German allies.</p> <p>9. Some countries remained 'neutral' in World War 2. Such countries were Spain, Sweden and Switzerland – who chose not to join either side.</p> <p>10. The Germans surrendered on 8 May 1945. Then Japan surrendered to Allied forces in August the same year after a nuclear attack on Japan's major cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki.</p>
allied powers	Countries which fought on the British side (USA, France and Russia)	
evacuation	An organised movement of children and vulnerable citizens (also known as evacuees) from targeted cities to safer areas.	
blackout regulations	This was imposed on 1 st September 1939. All windows and doors had to be covered at night to prevent light being seen by enemy aircraft	
Luftwaffe	The German air force during World War Two	
rationing	A way of sharing food, clothing, furniture and petrol fairly. It lasted for fourteen years	
propaganda	The spreading of information in order to influence public opinion and to manipulate other people's beliefs	
air raid shelter	A form of shelter for the protection of citizens during enemy attacks (Morrison shelters, Anderson and tube stations)	
Spitfire	The most widely produced and strategically important British single-seat fighter of World War Two	
Dig for Victory campaign	It started in October 1939 and everyone was required to keep an allotment. This also meant chickens, rabbits, goat and pigs were reared in parks and gardens.	
Primary source	A primary source is an original document or other material that was written at the time of the event and has not been changed in any way.	
Secondary source	A secondary source is a document or recording that writes or speaks about information that is one step removed from the original source.	

Read all about it!

World War Two

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