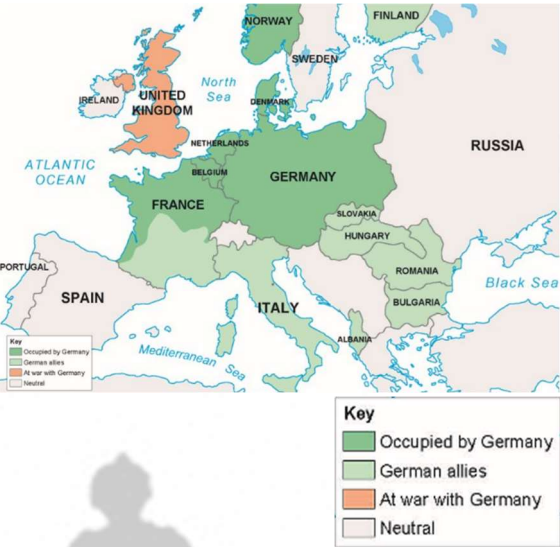


How did World War II start?

World War II began in Europe on 1st September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Great Britain and France responded by declaring war on Germany on 3rd September.

World War II

World War II Timeline											
1939		1940			1941			1944	1945		
1 st September	3 rd September	10 th May	10 th July	7 th September	22 nd June	7 th December	8 th December	6 th June	30 th April	7 th May	2 nd September
Germany invaded Poland	England declared war on Germany	Churchill replaces Chamberlain as Prime Minister	Battle of Britain began	The Blitz began.	Germany invaded Soviet Union	Japan attacked US Navy Pearl Harbour	USA entered the war as part of the Allies.	D-Day - Allied forces landed on the beach.	Hitler died	Germany surrendered to the Allies	Japan surrendered and ended the war.



Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939.

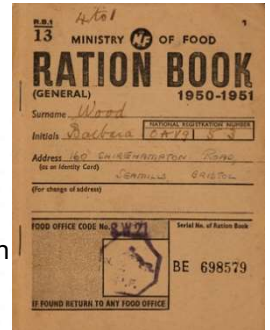
Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.



Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers, and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed number of foods.

Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible. Petrol, soap, clothing, and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued, and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.



Key Vocabulary

Allies	The Allies were the armed forces that fought against Germany. They included the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France and Soviet Union.
Axis	The Axis were the armed forces that fought against the United Kingdom. The major Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.
Air Raid	an attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft on to a ground target.
Anderson Shelter	A building to protect people from bombs dropped by planes. Made of corrugated iron. Usually at the end of the garden
Morrison Shelter	Metal cage used inside the house. Could double as a kitchen table
Blitz	A series of bombing raids on the UK – particularly in London
Blackout	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes
Evacuation	Moving children from dangerous areas to safer places, such as from big cities to the countryside to avoid bombing.
Nazi	Member of the German political group which came to power in 1933.
Luftwaffe	The German Airforce.
Messerschmitt	A German aircraft. With a top speed of 540 mph, Germany's Messerschmitt was by far the fastest fighter of World War II.
RAF	The Royal Airforce (British).
Spitfire	A British aircraft, particularly used during the Battle of Britain and known for its speed and agility.
Hurricane	Another British aircraft that played a decisive role in the Battle of Britain
Rationing	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (mainly food & clothing)
Invasion	When an army or country uses force to enter and take control of another country or area.

The Blitz

It began on 7 September 1940, 'Black Saturday', when German bombers attacked London. London was then bombed for 57 consecutive nights, and often during daytime too. London experienced regular attacks and on 10-11 May 1941 was hit by its biggest raid. German bombers dropped 711 tons of high explosive. However, this proved to be the last major raid until January 1943.



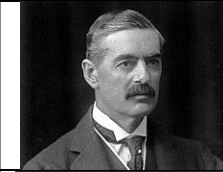
The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.

The Battle of Britain

Was 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.

Key People



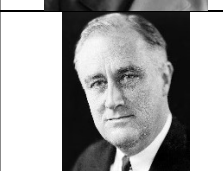
Neville Chamberlain
British Prime Minister from 1937-1940.



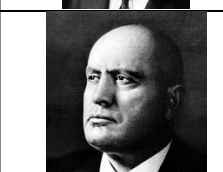
Winston Churchill
British Prime Minister from 1940-1945, then again from 1951-1955.



Adolf Hitler
German dictator during WW2 and leader of the Nazi political party.



Franklin D. Roosevelt
United States President.



Benito Mussolini
Italian dictator during WW2 and leader of the Fascists.



Joseph Stalin
Leader of the Soviet Union.



Hideki Tojo
Japanese Leader and military leader

