



# World War II



Timeline										
1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945	1945
On 1 <sup>st</sup> September Germany invades Poland	On 3 <sup>rd</sup> September England declares war on Germany	10 <sup>th</sup> May Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister	12 <sup>th</sup> May German forces enter France	USA declares war on Italy & Germany	British troops win back North Africa	Italy surrenders to the Allies	6 <sup>th</sup> June D-Day landings on Normandy beaches	Hitler commits suicide	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Japan surrenders on 2 <sup>nd</sup> September and the end of war declared

## Key Vocabulary

Air Raid	Many British cities were bombed by the Germans. These were known as Air Raids
Anderson shelter	Half buried in the ground and with earth on top, they protected people from bomb blasts.
blackout	All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.
Blitz	The sustained aerial bombing against Britain by Nazis. Blitz means lightning in German.
evacuee	Designed to protect people, especially children, by moving them to areas of less risk.
gas mask	Issued to all civilians at the start of the war, gas masks were used to protect from gas attacks.
Identity Cards	Everyone, including children, had to carry an identity (ID) card at all times to show who they were and where they lived
rations	Ration cards were given out and only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.
Morrison Shelter	The Morrison Shelter was for people without gardens. People sheltered underneath it during a raid.

**Who and Why?**  
 France and England declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland and the USA joined the war effort after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

**Home Guard**  
 Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against German invasion, members of this 'Dad's Army' were usually men above or below the age of conscription and those unfit or ineligible for front line military service. 1.5 million enrolled and supported the war effort through bomb disposal, manning anti-aircraft artillery and readied for invasion.

**Rationing**  
 The government was worried that as food and other items became scarcer, prices would rise and poorer people might not be able to afford things. There was also a danger that some people might hoard items, leaving none for others. Rationing was introduced to make sure that everyone had a fair share of the items that were hard to get hold of during the war.

**Evacuation**  
 The British government was worried that a new war might begin when Hitler came to power in 1933. They were afraid that British cities and towns would be targets for bombing raids by aircraft. Evacuation tried to ensure the safety of young children from the cities that were considered to be in danger of German bombing.

## Famous Figures

**Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)**  
 British Prime Minister from 1937-1940; Chamberlain was Prime Minister when Britain declared war on Germany.

**Winston Churchill (1874-1965)**  
 British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.

**Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)**  
 German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party

**Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)**  
 Italian dictator during World War II, and leader of the Fascists. Joined forces with Hitler as one of the Axis powers.

**Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945)**  
 United States President during most of WWII.

**Joseph Stalin (1878-1953)**  
 Leader of the Soviet Union during World War II

**Hideki Tojo (1884-1948)**  
 Japanese leader and military general

The Battle of Britain, 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.