

Why, where and when did WW2 occur?

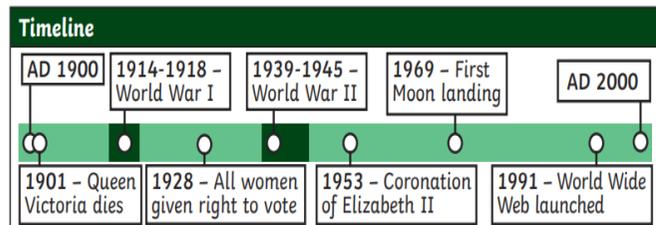
| Key Events |  |   |
|------------|--|---|
| 1939       | 1 <sup>st</sup> September                  | German troops invade Poland.                        |
|            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> September                  | Britain and France declare war on Germany.          |
| 1940       | 10 <sup>th</sup>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

**Prior Knowledge:**  
 We have learnt about how people's lives have shaped Britain.  
 We have learnt how to use timelines to put important historical events in chronological order.  
 We have learnt about key human achievements and human failures, and how we can learn from them.

How Did World War II Start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of **Czechoslovakia**) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

\*A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia



What happened during WW2?

World War 2 took place between 1939 and 1945. It began on 1st September 1939.

Neville Chamberlain was the Prime Minister when war broke out, but Winston Churchill took over. Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany.

Germany intended to gain power and land and began to invade other countries to achieve this.

There were two main sides – The Allies and the Axis countries – but many countries were involved. Some countries were neutral during WW2.

The armed forces wore uniforms to support their roles and had specific tasks: Navy, Army, and Air Force and veterans were used in the Home Guard.

The Home Front was what the population who weren't involved in combat were expected to do and support the war. Their contribution was huge. This changed the role of women.

During WW2 a system of rationing was implemented in order to cover food shortages caused by disruption to imports.

People kept themselves safe during bombing by using air raids shelters. Children were also evacuated away from the cities to safer areas.

The Battle of Britain was a turning point in the war. We will study this in more detail.

Anne Frank wrote a famous diary about her experiences during the Holocaust.

VE (Victory in Europe) Day marked the end of WW2.

Vocabulary Dozen

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Allies</b>         | The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China. |
| <b>Anti-Semitism</b>  | Hostility towards or discrimination against Jewish people.   |
| <b>Axis</b>           | The Axis powers, Germany, Italy and Japan, were the nations that fought against the Allies in WW2.   |
| <b>Evacuated</b>      | To be sent away from a place of danger. In WW2 children were sent away from cities to the country.   |
| <b>Nazi Party</b>     | A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.   |
| <b>Holocaust</b>      | The Holocaust was the mass murder of some 6 million European Jews and millions of others by the German Nazis during World War II.                  |
| <b>Atomic bomb</b>    | A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.  |
| <b>Annex</b>          | To take another country's land and make it part of your country.   |
| <b>Propaganda</b>     | Propaganda is a way of spreading ideas and influencing people. It is information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.                  |
| <b>Active service</b> | Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.   |
| <b>The Blitz</b>      | A German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 and 1941.   |
| <b>V.E. Day</b>       | Victory in Europe Day – a day to celebrate the surrender of German troops in Europe.   |

Ideas to think about...

- What happened to the cities that were destroyed during the war?
- How long did rationing last?
- What happened to Germany after WW2?
- What is VJ day and when did it happen?
- What was the role of the US in WW2?