

Knowledge Organiser - World War 2

Key Questions

1. What were the key dates and events in WW2?
2. Who were the Allies and Axis and what was their role in the war?
3. What happened to children during the war?
4. How did people keep safe during the wartime bombings?
5. What was rationing?
6. What are primary and secondary sources and how can they help us find out about the past?

Helpful Information

1939

- Hitler invades Poland on 1 September. Britain and France declare war on Germany two days later.

1940

- Rationing starts in the UK.
- Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Britain.
- British victory in Battle of Britain.

1941

- Hitler begins the invasion of Russia.
- The Blitz continues against Britain's major cities.
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbour, and the US enters the war.

1942

- Mass murder of Jewish people at Auschwitz begins.

1943

- Germany's first defeat in Stalingrad.
- Italy surrenders, but Germany takes over the battle.
- British and Indian forces fight Japanese in Burma.

1944

- D Day: The Allied invasion of France. Paris is liberated in August.

1945

- Auschwitz freed by Soviet troops.
- Russians reach Berlin: Hitler commits suicide and Germany surrenders on 7 May.
- After atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrenders on 14 August.

Allied Powers: Germany (Adolf Hitler), Italy (Benito Mussolini), Japan (Emperor Hirohito)

Axis Powers: England (Winston Churchill), France (Charles de Gaulle), Russia (Joseph Stalin)

Anderson shelter: A shelter usually built in people's gardens made of metal and half buried in the ground. It was often covered in earth to protect it against bombings.

Morrison shelter: A shelter made from strong steel, used inside the home and often used as a table too!

Rationing: Food was limited during the war and had to be rationed, meaning people were only allowed a small amount of each food. They had ration books with tokens in.

Evacuation: Many children were moved away from their homes in major cities to live in the countryside while the war was happening to keep them away from the bombing.

Vocabulary

Primary
Secondary
Source
England
Germany
Italy
Japan
France
Russia
United States of America
Rationing
Evacuee
Evacuation
Shelter
Anderson
Morrison
The Blitz
Material*
Remember*
Through*
Opposite*
Breathe*
History*
Extreme*

*Year
3/4
Common
Exception
Words

