

# YEAR 6: AUTUMN 2 – TIME COP: LEARNING FROM THE PAST

## HISTORY: WORLD WAR TWO

### CHRONOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING: WORLD WAR TWO

To develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British history:

**Learning links:**

**Enquiry:**

Y3-6 Science

Y3-6 History

**British History:**

**Year 3: Stone Age to Iron Age Britain (3.4mBC – 43AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/ beliefs

**Year 4: Roman Britain (43AD – 410AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/ beliefs

**Year 5: Anglo-Saxon Britain and the invasion of the Vikings (410AD – 1066AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/ beliefs

**Year 4: William Shakespeare and the end of the Tudors (1564AD – 1616AD)**

- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/ beliefs

**Year 6: The English Civil War and the Stuarts (1603AD – 1714AD)**

- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/ beliefs

**Year 6: World War 2 and modern Britain (1939AD – 1945AD)**

- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/ beliefs

Timeline	World War I	World War II	Nazi party	National Socialist Party	Adolf Hitler	Neville Chamberlain	Political Party
Seize land	Stormed	Frontier	Stuka Dive Bombers	Allies	Axis	Invade(s)	Declare(s)

**World War II – An introduction:**

For almost **6 years**, from **1939** to **1945**, **Britain** fought the **toughest war** it had ever **experienced**. **World War II** was **total war** - every person, every business, every service was **involved**.

**Britain** did not fight alone, the war also **involved many countries**. **World War II** involved **61 countries** with **1.7 billion people** (75% of the world's population at the time). **50,000,000** (Fifty million) people **lost their lives** and **hundreds of millions** people were **injured**.

**Why did WWII begin?**

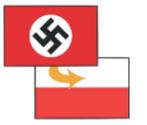
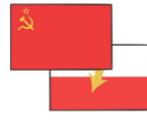
After **World War One** ended in **1918**, **Germany** had to **give up land**, **pay back their war debts (damages to other countries)** and was **banned** from having **armed forces**. **Germany** was a very **poor** place during this time and the **German** people were living in **poor conditions**. They wanted to **find another way**.

In **1933**, the **German people** voted for a new leader named **Adolf Hitler**, who led a political party in **Germany** called the **National Socialists** or **Nazis**.

**Hitler promised** to make his country **great again** and quickly began to **arm Germany** again and to **seize land** from **other countries**.

Shortly before 5am on **Friday 1st September, 1939**, German forces **stormed** the **Polish** frontier. **Tanks** and motorised **troops** raced into the country over ground, supported by **Stuka dive bombers** overhead. A total of **1.25 million Germans soldiers swept into Poland**.

As **allies of Poland**, **Britain** and **France** ordered Hitler to **withdraw Germany's troops** from **Poland** at once. When **Hitler refused** to do so, **Britain** and **France declared war** on Germany.

<p><b>1939</b> 1st September</p>  <p>Germany invades Poland.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> 3rd September</p>  <p>Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declares war on Germany.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> 3rd September</p>  <p>Canada, Australia, France and South Africa also declare war on Germany.</p>	<p><b>1939</b> 3rd September</p>  <p>The Soviet Union invades Poland.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 9th April</p>  <p>Germany invades Denmark and Norway.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 10th May</p>  <p>Winston Churchill becomes the new Prime Minister.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 10th May</p>  <p>Germany attacks Western Europe.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 12th May</p>  <p>Germany enters France.</p>
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<p><b>1940</b> 14th May</p>  <p>The Netherlands surrenders to Germany.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 14th May</p>  <p>The Home Guard is formed.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 27th May</p>  <p>340,000 French and British troops are evacuated from Dunkirk.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 28th May</p>  <p>Belgium surrenders to Germany.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 9th June</p>  <p>Norway surrenders to Germany.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 10th June</p>  <p>Italy declares war on Britain and France.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 22nd June</p>  <p>France surrenders to Germany.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 10th July</p>  <p>The Battle of Britain begins.</p>
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<p><b>1940</b> 7th September</p>  <p>The London Blitz begins.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 13th September</p>  <p>Italy invades British controlled Egypt.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> 27th September</p>  <p>Germany, Italy and Japan join forces and sign the Tripartite Pact.</p>	<p><b>1940</b> November</p>  <p>Slovakia, Hungary and Romania join with Germany.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> March</p>  <p>Bulgaria joins with Germany.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> 22nd June</p>  <p>Germany invades the Soviet Union.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> 7th December</p>  <p>The Japanese attack Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> 8th December</p>  <p>The United States declares war on Japan.</p>
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<p><b>1941</b> 11th December</p>  <p>Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.</p>	<p><b>1941</b> 11th December</p>  <p>The United States declares war on Germany and Italy.</p>	<p><b>1942</b> 4th May</p>  <p>The Battle of the Coral Sea between the USA and Japan.</p>	<p><b>1942</b> 8th November</p>  <p>British and US troops take back North Africa.</p>	<p><b>1943</b> 20th April</p>  <p>Jews massacred by the Germans at the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland.</p>	<p><b>1943</b> 16th May</p>  <p>The Dam Buster raid.</p>	<p><b>1944</b> 6th June</p>  <p>British and US troops land in Normandy.</p>	<p><b>1944</b> 16th December</p>  <p>The Battle of the Bulge.</p>
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<p><b>1945</b> 12th January</p>  <p>The Soviets displaced the German Army from Warsaw, Krakow and Budapest.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> 30th April</p>  <p>Hitler commits suicide.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> 7th May</p>  <p>Germany surrenders to the West.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> 8th May</p>  <p>Britain celebrates VE Day.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> 6th August</p>  <p>The first atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima by the US.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> 2nd September</p>  <p>Japan formally surrenders. World War II is over.</p>
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# TO UNDERSTAND AND DESCRIBE: WORLD WAR TWO – THE COUNTRIES AND THEIR LEADERS

To understand and describe an aspect of British history:
<b>Learning links:</b>
<b>Enquiry:</b>
Y3-6 Science
Y3-6 History
<b>British History:</b>
<b>Year 3: Stone Age to Iron Age Britain</b> (3.4mBC – 43AD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasion</li> <li>Settlements</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Leaders</li> <li>Religion/beliefs</li> </ul>
<b>Year 4: Roman Britain</b> (43AD – 410AD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasion</li> <li>Settlements</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Leaders</li> <li>Religion/beliefs</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlements</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Leaders</li> <li>Religion/beliefs</li> </ul>
<b>Year 6: World War 2 and modern Britain</b> (1939AD – 1945AD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlements</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Leaders</li> <li>Religion/beliefs</li> </ul>

<b>Axis Powers</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Adolf Hitler</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Benito Mussolini</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>Hideki Tojo</b>
<b>Allied Forces</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>Neville Chamberlain</b>	<b>Winston Churchill</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>Soviet Union</b>	<b>France</b>

## Who was involved?

The **Second World War** was fought by *countries* on *two different sides*, the **Allies** and the **Axis Powers**.

### The Axis Powers:



#### Adolf Hitler – Nazi Germany:

Hitler's **Nationalist Socialist Party** (the **Nazi Party**) won **power** in **1933**. Their main **beliefs** were:

- **Germany** needed **more land**;
- All people who **spoke German** should live in one country and be **ruled** by one **strong leader** (Hitler himself was born in Austria);
- That **certain groups** of people were better than others and people of the **Jewish faith** weren't as good as others.



Throughout the **1930s**, **Hitler** built up **Germany's armed forces and weaponry**. He was known as a **skilled orator** which is one of the reasons for his **huge popularity**. Germany's invasion of Poland in September 1939 led to the start of the Second World War.

Initially, the **war went well for Hitler**. However, in **1941** he made the mistake of **starting war on a second front** by **invading Russia**. Eventually, **fighting a war across such a huge area** caused **Germany's defeat**.

Realising the war was **nearly at an end**, **Hitler** went into **hiding** in his **underground bunker** in **Berlin** (the capital of Germany). There he married his long-term companion, **Eva Braun** on **30th April 1945**. **Rather than surrender** to the Allies, **Hitler took his own life**.

#### Hideki Tojo – Japan:

**Tojo** served in the **Japanese army** and **spent time** in **Switzerland** and **Germany**.

He became **Prime Minister** of **Japan** in **1941**. That same year, **Tojo** was part of the **government conference** that **ordered** one of the **key events** of the **Second World War** – Japan's **bombing of Pearl Harbour** in **Hawaii** (a part of the United States of America). This **caused** the **USA** to **join** the **war** on the side of the **Allies**. **After** the war, **Tojo** was **tried** for **war crimes**. He was found **guilty** and **executed** in **1948**.



#### Benito Mussolini:

**Mussolini** wanted to restore the **Roman Empire**. In **March 1919**, he started the **Fascist Party**. The Fascist Party's **main beliefs** were:

- that **Italy** should **invade countries** and make them part of their **Empire**;
- that **white people** (the 'Aryan race') were **better than everyone else**, particularly **Jewish** people.

**Mussolini** was a dramatic **orator** which helped him gain **popularity**. In **1922**, **Mussolini took control of Italy** and eventually became a **dictator**. Just like **Hitler** was doing in Germany, **Mussolini started to build up** his country's **armed forces and weapons**.

In **1936**, Italy **invaded Ethiopia** in Africa. Like **Hitler**, **Mussolini** brought in **anti-Jewish policies** throughout the **1930s**.

By **1943**, **Italy** had **suffered huge military defeats** and on 23rd July of that year, **Mussolini resigned**. **German forces rescued Mussolini** before he could be **arrested by the Allies**. However, some **Italian people recognised Mussolini and shot him**.



### The Allied Forces:



#### Neville Chamberlain – Great Britain:

**Neville Chamberlain** belonged to the **Conservative Party** and was an **MP** for two areas in **Birmingham**. Following the resignation of the previous Prime Minister, **Chamberlain** became **Prime Minister** in **1937**.

At this time, **Germany** was building up its **army, navy** and supply of **weapons**, as well as **invading several areas**. All of these things were **against the peace terms** set out at the end of the **First World War**. **Chamberlain** felt the **best way to avoid** another world **war** was something called **appeasement**. This meant **allowing Hitler** whatever he wanted in order to keep **peace**.

In **1938**, **Chamberlain** flew to **Germany** to **meet** with **Hitler**. Both leaders **signed a document** called the **Anglo-German agreement** which stated the "symbolic desire of our two peoples **never to go to war again**". On his return to **Britain**, **Chamberlain declared** that there would be "**peace for our time**".

The **invasion of Poland** in September **1939** showed that **Hitler** had **no intention** of sticking to the terms of the **Anglo-German agreement**. As **Britain** had made a **pact with Poland**, the **invasion** meant that **Britain** and **Germany** were **now at war**. With the **war going badly**, **Chamberlain resigned** in **1940**. Chamberlain **died on 9th November 1940**, not long after his resignation.



#### Winston Churchill – Great Britain:

**Churchill** became **prime minister** following **Chamberlain's resignation** in **1940**. **Churchill** had been in politics for a long time and was **First Lord of the Admiralty** (political head of the Royal Navy) during the **Second World War**. However, he made some **military decisions** that went **badly**. He **resigned** and **actually went to fight in the war**. **Churchill** made lots of **inspirational speeches** that **kept British morale high** during the dark days of the **Second World War**. **Churchill** was a **strong wartime leader** whose **decisions** helped the **Allies achieve victory**. **Churchill died in 1965** and was one of few **non-monarchs** to be given a special funeral called a **state funeral**. This was in **recognition** of how well he led the country during the **Second World War**.



#### Franklin Delano Roosevelt - USA:

**Roosevelt** (commonly known by his initials **FDR**) was from an **important American family**.

Initially, the **United States weren't involved** in the Second World War. Although he felt the US should join, **most American people** were **against** it. It wasn't until **Japan bombed Pearl Harbour** (a US naval base in **Hawaii**) in December **1941**, that the **United States joined the Allies** and were involved in the war. For the rest of the **war**, **Roosevelt** made many **radio broadcasts**, keeping the **American people** up to date with what was happening and making **speeches** that **boosted morale**.



#### Josef Stalin – Soviet Union (Russia):

**Originally**, Stalin had made an **alliance with Hitler**. Stalin only **joined** the **Allies** after **Germany attacked the Soviet Union** in **1941**. Despite this, the **Soviet Union** played a **key role** in the **Allies' victory**. Over **75%** of all **German soldiers** killed, **died fighting the Soviet Union**. **26 million Soviet people died** in the war and **lots of the country was destroyed**.



# TO UNDERSTAND AND DESCRIBE: WORLD WAR TWO – IMPACT ON BRITISH LIFE

To understand and describe an aspect of British history:

<i>Blitzkrieg</i>	<i>The Blitz</i>	<i>Air Raid</i>	<i>Air Raid Siren</i>	<i>Luftwaffe</i>	<i>Air Raid Shelters</i>	<i>Blackout</i>
<i>Evacuation</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	<i>Rural Areas</i>	<i>Gas Mask</i>	<i>Identity Card</i>	<i>Ration Book</i>	<i>Luggage</i>
<i>Rationing</i>	<i>Food Rationing</i>	<i>Clothes Rationing</i>	<i>Imported</i>	<i>National Registration Day</i>	<i>Ration Book &amp; Coupons</i>	<i>Dig for Victory Campaign</i>

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- Y3-6 History
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## Evacuation:

During the *Second World War*, many *children* living in *big cities* and *towns* were *moved temporarily* from their *homes* to places considered *safer*, usually out in the *countryside*. The *British evacuation* began on *Friday 1 September 1939*. It was called '*Operation Pied Piper*'. Between *1939 – 1945*, there were *3 major evacuations* in preparation of the *German Luftwaffe bombing Britain*:

- September 1939** – In preparation of war being declared. (Most children returned by January 1940 before being re-evacuated in June)
- June 1940** – In preparation of the Blitz Air Raids, over 100,000 children were evacuated from major cities.
- June 1944** – Germany began using V1 and V2 rockets – 1,000,000 women, children, elderly and disabled people were evacuated from London.



*World War Two ended in September 1945*, however *evacuation* did not *officially end until March 1946* when it was felt that *Britain* was no longer under threat from *invasion*. Surprisingly, even *6 months after* the war had *ended*, there were *still 5,200 evacuees living in rural areas* with their host families. On the other hand, *many evacuees* had *returned home long before March 1946*. In *April 1945*, the *Government* began to *make travel arrangements* to *return the evacuees* to their homes when the *war was over*. By *12th July 1945*, *more than 100 trains had brought 54,317 evacuees home to London*.

## Packing for evacuation:

**GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME TO PARENTS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

The Government have decided that parents of Schoolchildren in this area are to have the opportunity of sending their children away to a safer district while present enemy activity continues. If you wish your child to go with the organised scheme, please fill in the form attached to this notice and get your child to bring it to school.

**Arrangements to be made.**

- Clothing.** Your child should take the following in addition to what he or she is wearing, and all the articles must be darned and mended. If any of these articles cannot be provided notify the teacher at once.
 

<b>BOY.</b>	<b>GIRL.</b>
2 vests	2 vests
2 under pants	2 Liberty bodices (if worn)
2 shirts	2 knickers
2 pyjamas or night shirts	2 nightdresses or pyjamas
2 pairs socks	2 pairs socks or stockings
2 pairs boots or shoes	2 pairs shoes
1 Wellingtons (if possible)	1 Wellingtons (if possible)
1 warm coat and/or mackintosh (if not being worn)	1 warm coat and/or mackintosh
1 pair of knickers or trousers.	1 warm dress or tunic and jersey
1 pullover	1 cardigan
6 handkerchiefs.	2 cotton frocks
1 toothbrush	6 handkerchiefs.
1 face flannel	1 toothbrush
1 comb.	1 face flannel
2 towels	1 comb
	2 towels
- You will wish to do everything possible to ensure that your child goes away with clean clothes, clean hair and a clean body
- Luggage.** The child should wear his warmest and thickest footwear. The inventory above is to be taken as minimum requirements, but do remember that your child should not take more than he can carry comfortably.
- Food.** Each child should take sufficient food for one day. Be sure your child has his ration book and if pages of coupons out of his book have been deposited with retailers, ask for their return and pin the loose pages into the ration book. Your child's ration book, identity card and personal coupons should be packed inside the gas mask case.

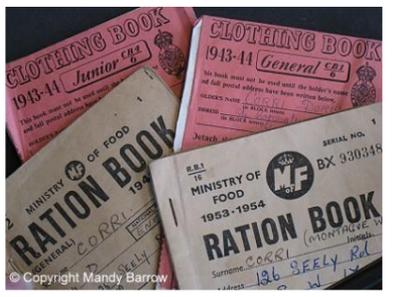
PLEASE keep this notice for reference and return the form to your child's school immediately if you want him or her to take part in the evacuation scheme.

-cut here-



## Rationing:

During *World War II* all sorts of *essential* and non-essential *foods* were *rationed*, as well as *clothing, furniture* and *petrol*. To make the *British weak*, the *Germans* tried to *cut off supplies* of *food* and *other goods*. *German submarines* attacked many of the *ships* that brought *food to Britain*. *Before the war*, Britain *imported 55 million tons of food*, a *month after the war had started* this figure had dropped to *12 million*. The *Ration Book* became the *key to survival* for nearly *every household in Britain*. *Every member of the public* was issued with a *ration book*.



It all started on *National Registration Day* on *29 September 1939*, every *householder* had to *fill in a form* giving *details* of the people who *lived in their house*. *Using the information gathered* on this day, the *government issued* every one with an *identity card* and *ration book*.

Each *family* or *individual* had to *register* with a *local supplier* from whom the *ration* would be *bought*. These *details* were *stamped* in the book and you could *only buy your ration* from that supplier. The *books* contained *coupons* that had to be *handed to* or *signed* by the *shopkeeper* every time *rationed goods* were bought. This meant that people could *only buy* the *amount they were allowed*.



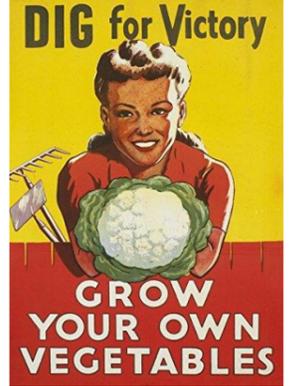
The *government* issued *ration books* to make sure that *everybody got a fair share* of the food available. The government was *worried* that, as food and other items became *scarcer*, *prices* would *rise* and *poorer people* might not be able to *afford things*. There was also a *danger* that some 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. *Rationing of food lasted for 14 years and ended on July 4, 1954*. *Rationing continued* even after the *war ended* as it took so long for *Britain to return to* normal after such an *exhausting war*.

*Bacon, butter and sugar* were the *first items* of food to be *rationed*.

### What other foods were rationed?

Meat	Jam	Biscuits
Fish	Tea	Breakfast cereals
Cheese	Eggs	Milk
Tinned tomatoes	Peas	Dried fruit
Rice	Canned fruit	Cooking fat

People were *encouraged to provide* their *own* food at *home*. The '*Dig for Victory*' campaign started in *October 1939* and called for *every man and woman* to keep an *allotment*. *Lawns* and *flower-beds* were turned into *vegetable gardens*. *Chickens, rabbits, goats* and *pigs* were *reared in town parks* and *gardens*.



# TO UNDERSTAND AND DESCRIBE: WORLD WAR TWO – IMPACT ON BRITISH LIFE

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<i>Evacuation</i>	<i>Evacuee</i>	<i>Rural Areas</i>	<i>Gas Mask</i>	<i>Identity Card</i>	<i>Ration Book</i>	<i>Luggage</i>

## How did World War II impact on British life?

World War II brought a lot of *suffering* and *hardship* to *British people*:

- *German bombers* made *terrifying night raids* called '*The Blitz*'.
- *Important buildings, people's homes and entire streets* were *destroyed*.
- *Families* were *broken up* as *men* were *sent to the front lines* to *fight*, some never to return.
- *Children* were *evacuated (sent out)* of the *cities* to stay with *strangers, away from the bombing*.
- *Docks* were *destroyed, stopping the supply of food and essentials* being *delivered* from *other countries*.
- *Factories* and *farms* *lost* their *workers* when the men were *sent to fight* and *stopped producing*.
- *Food, clothing* and *everyday essentials* became *short in supply* and *rationing* was *necessary*.

### The Battle of Britain:

The *First World War* had to be fought *mainly on the ground*. *World War Two* was a *different* kind of war as it was both on the *ground* and *from the air*.

In *July 1940*, *Hitler* gave *orders* for the *preparation* of a *seaborn invasion* of *Britain*, called *Operation Sealion*.

To make this easier, he sent the *Luftwaffe* (German air force) to *destroy Britain's Royal Air Force* first. *German leaders* felt it was *essential* to *destroy* the British *air force* to *stop* it *sinking the ships* that would carry *German soldiers across the Channel*. *The Battle of Britain* is the *name commonly given* to the *effort* by the *Luftwaffe* to *gain air superiority* over the *Royal Air Force (RAF)*, *before* a planned sea and airborne *invasion* of *Britain* during the *Second World War*. The *Luftwaffe* tried to *destroy* the *Royal Air Force*. If *Britain* were *unsuccessful*, *Germany* would have succeeded in *invading Britain*.

			
<i>Luftwaffe Messerschmitt</i>	<i>Luftwaffe Dornier</i>	<i>British RAF Lancaster</i>	<i>British RAF Spitfire</i>

On *10 July, 1940*, the *Luftwaffe* made their *first bomber attack* on *British ships* in the *Channel*. In *August, 1940* the *German air force* began its *mass bomber attacks* on *British airfields, harbours, aircraft factories* and *radar stations*. During the next 3 months, the *Royal Air Force* lost *792 planes* and over *500 pilots* were *killed*.

The *31st October 1940*, is generally *considered* to be the *end* of the *Battle of Britain*, after the *RAF* caused *considerable damage* to the *Luftwaffe*.

The *Germans* decided to *stop* attempting to *destroy* the *RAF* and, instead, decided to try a different approach to *concentrate* on *bombing London* and other *British cities; known as the Blitz*.

The *German Luftwaffe* had a clear *advantage* over the *British RAF* with over *2,600 aircraft available* compared to *Britain's 640 planes*. However, *despite* their *inferior numbers*, the *RAF* defences were incredibly *well organised* and *efficient*. The British '*Spitfires*' were used to engage in '*dogfights*' (close range, in-air fighting) with the German *Messerschmitts* and the British '*Hawker Hurricanes*' were tasked with *targetting and destroying German bombers*. The *RAF* pilots were highly regarded by all due to their unexpected victory against the *Luftwaffe*; considering the vast difference in numbers. However, *Britain's* success in the *Battle of Britain* was also owed to the many ground workers who supported them: factory men and women worked tirelessly to build new aircraft and weapons; radar operatives scanned the skies 24 hours a day to offer advance warning and intelligence about incoming enemy planes; and anti-aircraft command helped shoot down enemy planes from the ground.

### The Blitz (Blitzkrieg – Lightning War):

On the *7th September, 1940* the *German air force* changed its *strategy* of bombing the British air force (*Battle of Britain*) and began to *concentrate* on *bombing London*. Nearly *2,000 people* were *killed* or *wounded* in *London's first night* of the *Blitz*.

At *4:56pm* on *7 September 1940*, the *air raid sirens* wailed as the German Air Force, the *Luftwaffe*, launched a *massive raid* on *London*. Over *350 bombers* flew across the *Channel* from airfields in *France* and *dropped 300 tonnes* of *bombs* on the *docks* and *streets* of the *East End of London*.

The bombs *destroyed* many *buildings* burying *mother, fathers and children* in the *rubble*.

*London* was *bombed every day and night*, bar one, for *11 weeks*. *1/3 of London* was *destroyed*.

*Two million houses* (60 per cent of these in *London*) were *destroyed in the Blitz*.

*Other cities* and towns were *also heavily bombed*, including *Swansea, Cardiff, Bristol, Southampton, Plymouth, Birmingham, Coventry* and *Liverpool*.

One *devastating raid on Coventry* in *November 1940* was the *biggest air-raid* the world had ever seen. *4,330 homes* were *destroyed* and *554 people* *killed*. At one point during the night, *200 separate fires* burned in the city.

*Life* was very *hard* during the *Blitz* and *frightening* too. *London*, in particular, was very bad as it was *bombed nearly every night*. People in *London* spent most nights *sleeping in Air Raid Shelters*.

*No one* within any *distance* of a likely target such as a *big city* could *sleep entirely easy* in their beds. Sometimes German *bombers* made *mistakes* and *dropped* their *bombs* in entirely the *wrong areas*. At other times, *returning* from a raid, they would *dump* the remainder of their *explosives* at *random* in order to fly home in greater safety. Many *bombs* fell on the areas *around the cities* and in the *Kent countryside*, known as '*bomb alley*' because it lay on the *flight path to London*.

It was *difficult to move* around at night time due to the *Blackout* and the problems it causes. (*During the war*, everyone had to *cover their windows* and *doors* at night (before sunset) with *heavy blackout curtains, cardboard* or *paint*. They needed to *prevent* any glimmer of *light* from *escaping* and *aiding* enemy *aircraft* during the *bombing raids*.) *Families* were *separated* with *children* being *evacuated*.



## KEY ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES:

### EXS:

- When did World War 2 start?
- When did World War 2 end? Why then?
- Which countries were involved in World War 2 and which side were they on?
- Who were the main leaders involved in World War 2?
- What were the Luftwaffe aiming to destroy during the Blitz? Why?
- How did British lifestyle change when the war started?
- EXIT QUESTIONS:**
- How and why did World War 2 start?
- What does the term rationing refer to during WW2?
- What does the term evacuation refer to during WW2?

### GDS:

- As a child/mother/young man/old man living in Britain during 1939-1945, explain how World War 2 has changed your life.
- Why were campaigns like 'Dig for Victory' so important to winning the war?
- EXIT QUESTIONS:**
- Why did the government need to introduce evacuation?
- Why did the government need to introduce rationing?
- Why was World War 2 called '*World War 2*'?

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