

# YEAR 6: SPRING 2 – TIME COP: SOLVING MYSTERIES OF THE PAST

## HISTORY: THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

### CHRONOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING:

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

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 (3400BC – 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 6: 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

#### 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 pay **reparations** to the countries it had damaged. This involved **giving up land**, **paying their war debts** (**giving money to countries it had damaged**) and being **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** border. **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**.



#### THINKING POINT:

When did WW2 begin and end?

Why did WW2 begin?



To understand and describe an aspect 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasion</li> <li>Settlements</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Leaders</li> <li>Religion/beliefs</li> </ul>
Year 4: Roman Britain (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>
Year 5: Anglo-Saxon Britain and the invasion of the Vikings (410AD – 1066AD)
<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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Year 6: World War 2 and modern Britain (1939AD – 1945AD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Settlements</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Leaders</li> <li>Religion/beliefs</li> </ul>

## TO UNDERSTAND AND DESCRIBE:

### 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 *white, German speaking people* (he called them the 'Aryan race') were *better than everyone else*, particularly *Jewish* people.



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). *Rather than surrender* to the Allies, *Hitler took his own life*.

#### Hideki Tojo – Japan:

*Tojo* 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*.



#### 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 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 *First 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 lead the country during the *Second World War*.



#### Franklin Delano Roosevelt - USA:

*Roosevelt* (commonly known by his initials *FDR*) was the *President of the United States of America*.

Initially, the *United States weren't involved* in the Second World War. 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*.



### THINKING POINT:

What were the major countries of the Axis and Allied powers?

Who were the main leaders of the Axis and Allied powers?



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


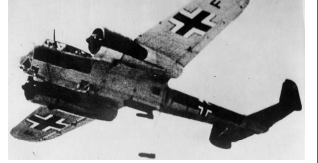


World War II brought a lot of *suffering* and *hardship* to British people:

- 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*.

			
Luftwaffe Messerschmitt	Luftwaffe Dornier	British RAF Lancaster	British RAF Spitfire

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 *31<sup>st</sup> 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*.

#### THINKING POINT:

Why did the German air force begin bombing Britain?

Where were the German bomber attacks targeted?



### 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 *whole families* 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*.

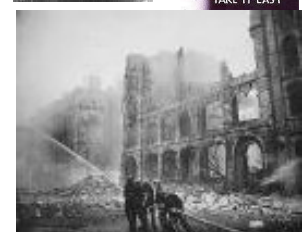
*Other cities* and towns were *also heavily bombed*, including Swansea, Cardiff, Bristol, Southampton, Plymouth, Birmingham, Coventry and Liverpool.

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*.



#### THINKING POINT:

What was 'The Blitz'?

Which cities were targeted?

How did British people protect themselves during The Blitz?



**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**:

1. **September 1939** – In preparation of war being declared. (Most children returned by January 1940 before being re-evacuated in June)
2. **June 1940** – In preparation of the Blitz Air Raids, over 100,000 children were evacuated from major cities.
3. **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**. 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**. On the other hand, **many evacuees had returned home long before March 1946**.

**THINKING POINT:**

Why were children evacuated?  
Where were they evacuated from/to?



**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**.

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**. Even **clothes** were rationed! 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**.



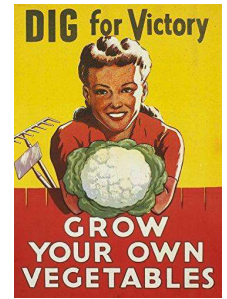
**What foods were rationed?**

Bacon	Butter	Sugar
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**.

**THINKING POINT:**

Why was food rationed?  
How did rationing work?



**EXIT QUESTIONS:**

**EXS:**

**GDS:**

Do you think WW2 was the most dangerous period of history for British people? Justify your answer with specific examples of evidence from other time periods.

How has war impacted Britain since the Iron Age? Can you see any trends in why battles and invasions have been successful/unsuccessful? Justify your answer with specific examples of evidence from other time periods.