Ocean Academy Poole
an Aspirations Academy
Self-Worth | Engagement | Purpose

Learning Journey Map

Year: **6** Term: **Summer**
Subject: **HISTORY** Topic: **WORLD WAR TWO**

Driving Question: ***How can we investigate and use evidence from World War Two to compare how our world has changed over time and the lessons we might learn for the future?***
Power Skill: **Communication-** I can provide constructive feedback and apply feedback I receive to make improvements.

National Curriculum Learning Objectives

- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time

Key Vocabulary

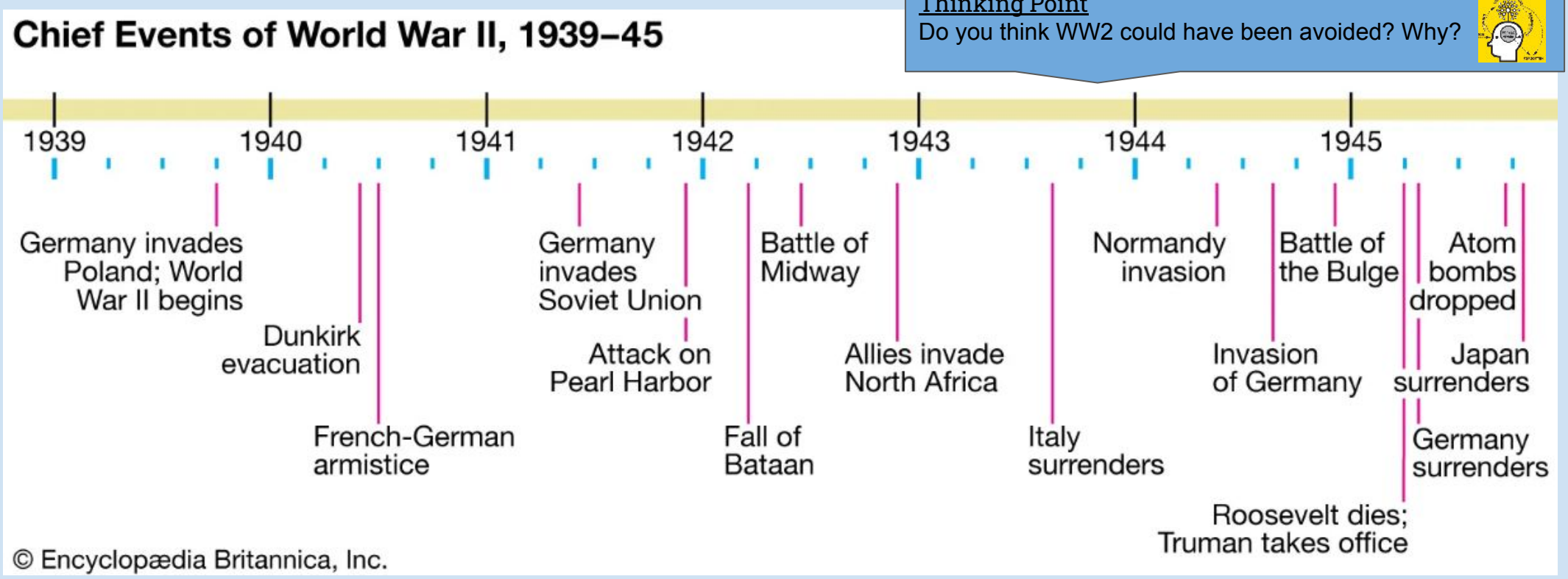
World War 1	1939-1945	Adolf Hitler	Nazi Party	Winston Churchill
Allied forces	Axis forces	Allied leaders	Axis leaders	Luftwaffe/RAF
Battle of Britain	The Blitz	Air Raid Shelter	evacuation	rationing

Key Learning

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
Do you think WW2 could have been avoided? Why?



You can find a full list of events here.

Explore and Investigate
Use artefacts from Poole Museum/online to explore life on the Home Front and compare it to modern life, and life during the COVID pandemic.
Use BBC School Radio to compare children's lives then with now.

Resources:
Poole Museum loan boxes, newspaper etc artefacts, BBC school Radio

Key Learning

The Allies:	The Axis:
Great Britain *Neville Chamberlain followed by Winston Churchill*	**Germany** *Adolf Hitler*
The Soviet Union *Joseph Stalin*	**Italy** *Benito Mussolini*
France *Charles De Gaulle*	**Japan** *Hideki Tojo*
The United States of America *Franklin D Roosevelt*	

Who was involved?

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

Adolf Hitler



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

Neville Chamberlain

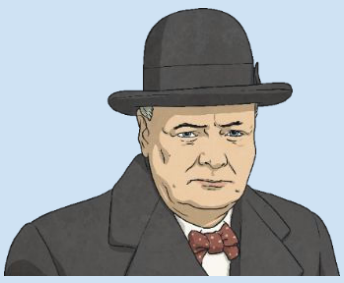


Neville Chamberlain belonged to the Conservative Party and became Prime Minister in 1937.
At this time, Germany was building up its army, navy and supply of weapons, as well as invading several areas. All of these things were against the peace terms set out at the end of the First World War. Chamberlain 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.

Thinking Point
Do you think Chamberlain was right to try and negotiate peace with Hitler?



Winston Churchill



Churchill had been in politics for a long time and was First Lord of the Admiralty during WW1. Churchill became prime minister following Chamberlain's resignation in 1940. Churchill made lots of inspirational speeches that kept British morale high during the dark days of WW2. 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.

How did World War II impact on British life?

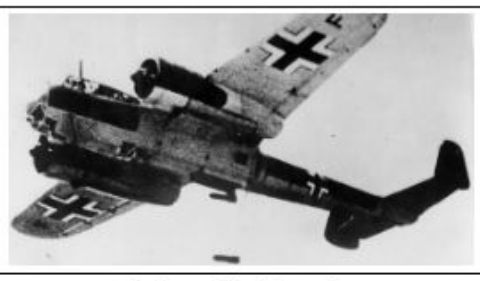
World War II brought a lot of suffering and hardship to British people:

- 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 new 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 seaborne 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). If Britain were unsuccessful, Germany would have succeeded in invading Britain.

			
Luftwaffe Messerschmitt	*Luftwaffe Dornier*	*British RAF Lancaster*	*British RAF Spitfire*

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

Key Learning



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.



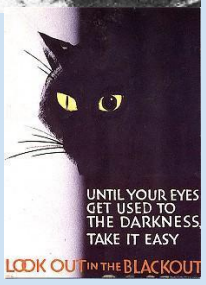
At 4:56pm on 7 September 1940, the air raid sirens wailed as the German Air Force, the Luftwaffe, launched a massive raid on London. Over 350 bombers flew across the Channel from airfields in France and dropped 300 tonnes of bombs on the docks and streets of the East End of London.
The bombs destroyed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



To protect homes from becoming targets, the 'Blackout' was announced. This meant 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.

Thinking Point
How do you think it would have felt to live through this time?



Evacuation:

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:

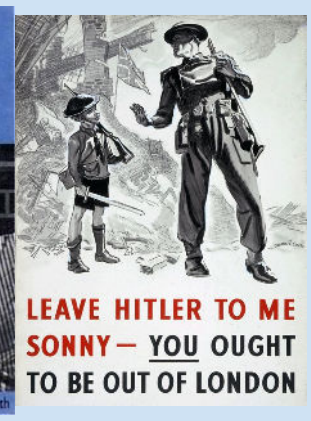
1. September 1939 – In preparation of war being declared. (Most children returned by January 1940 before being re-evacuated in June 1940)
2. June 1940 – In preparation of the Blitz Air Raids, over 100,000 children were evacuated from major cities.
3. June 1944 – Germany began using V1 and V2 rockets – 1 million 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. However, many evacuees had returned home long before March 1946.





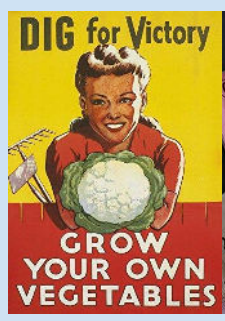




Find out about children's experiences of evacuation on BBC School Radio.

Rationing:

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. Therefore, all sorts of essential and non-essential foods were rationed, as well as clothing, furniture and petrol. 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 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.

Thinking Point
How does this compare to your experiences of the COVID pandemic?

