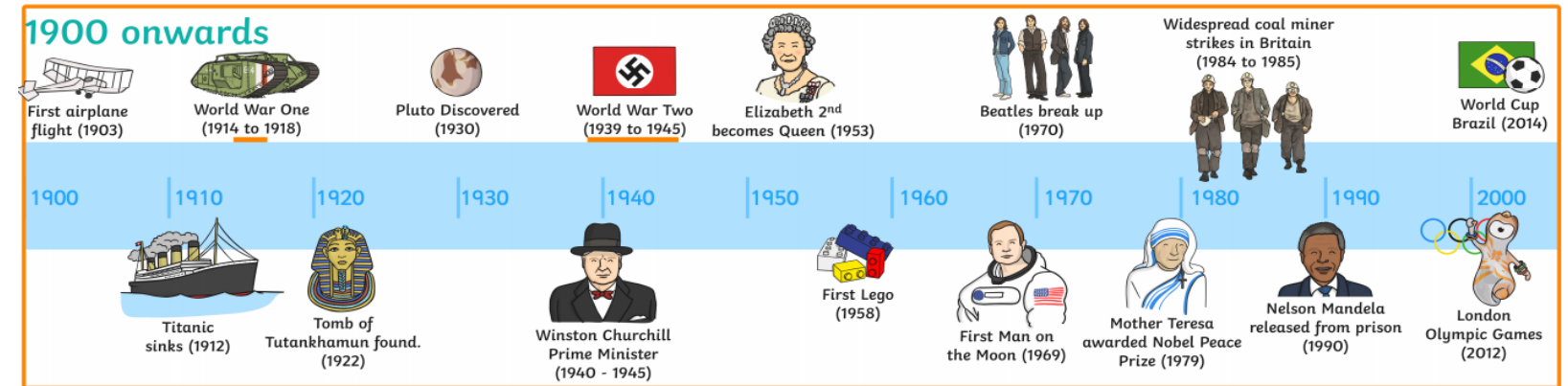


How Did World War II Start?

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.

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser – What was it like for children during World War 2?



Evacuation



During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were

evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used.



People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible. Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.

Key People

	Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940) British Prime Minister from 1937-1940; Chamberlain was Prime Minister when Britain declared war on Germany.
	Winston Churchill (1874-1965) British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.
	Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party.
	Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) Italian dictator during World War II and leader of the Fascists. Joined forces with Hitler as one of the Axis powers
	Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945) United States President during most of WW2.
	Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) Leader of the Soviet Union during World War 2.
	Hideki Tojo (1884-1948) Japanese leader and military general

The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air (known as dog fighting). It was made up of lots of air battles that lasted from 10 July-31 October 1940.

Timeline

1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945	1945
On 1 st September Germany invades Poland	On 3 rd September England declares war on Germany	10 th May Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister	12 th May German forces enter France	USA declares war on Italy & Germany	British troops win back North Africa	Italy surrenders to the Allies	6 th June D-Day landings on Normandy beaches	Hitler commits suicide	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6 th August	Japan surrenders on 2 nd September and the end of war declared

The Holocaust

The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party.

Before the war, the Nazis wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used propaganda to promote widespread public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against. Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.



Anne Frank (1929-1945) was a German-born diarist. As a young Jewish girl, her family were forced into hiding, fleeing Germany for a secret attic in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She wrote a diary of her time there. After years in hiding, her family was betrayed and arrested, and taken to concentration camps. Anne died of Typhus in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The only survivor from her family was Otto, her father, who published her diaries after her death. It has now become one of the most famous and well-read texts in contemporary history.

The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for active service, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves.

After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives.



Key Vocabulary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Anderson shelter	Half buried in the ground and with earth on top, they protected people from bomb blasts.
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
atomic bomb	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
blackout	All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.
Blitz	The sustained aerial bombing against Britain by Nazis. Blitz means lightning in German.
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
evacuee	Designed to protect people, especially children, by moving them to areas of less risk.
gas mask	Issued to all civilians at the start of the war, gas masks were used to protect from gas attacks.
Kristallnacht	On 9 th -10 th November 1939, Nazis torched synagogues and vandalised Jewish homes.
Nazis	Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled Germany between 1933 and 1945. They had racist and anti-Jewish ideas.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
rations	Ration cards were given out and only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.
star of David	Jews throughout Europe were forced to wear the star of David to clearly identify themselves.
swastika	An ancient symbol of a cross with arms at a right angle, used as an emblem for the Nazi Party.