



**Key vocabulary**

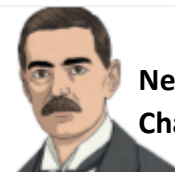
Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
invasion	The act of entering a place in large numbers especially in a way that is harmful or unwanted .
occupation	The act or process of being in (or taking over) an area.
Evacuation	Evacuation means <u>leaving a place</u> . Many children (and certain adults) living in big cities and towns were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually out in the countryside.
Phoney War	The first six months of the war became known as the 'Phoney War' because there was almost no fighting and no bombs were dropped. It gave the government more time to protect Britain from attack but many people started to believe the war would never actually happen.

**How WW2 started**

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and took over Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty (an agreement document) allowing Hitler to occupy 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.



**Adolf Hitler**



**Neville Chamberlain**



**Winston Churchill**

**Key Dates**

1st September 1939	German troops invade Poland. Evacuation in Britain begins.
3rd September 1939	Neville Chamberlain (British Prime Minister) announces that Britain is at war with Germany.
May 1940	Winston Churchill becomes the new Prime Minister of Britain.
7th September 1940	The Blitz begins (more on this later on in Year 4!)
6th June 1944	The D-Day landings.
8th May 1945	VE Day —' Victory in Europe Day'. This marked the day when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end. Germany had surrendered the day before.
15th August 1945	VJ Day —'Victory over Japan Day'. Japan surrendered, marking the end of the WW2.

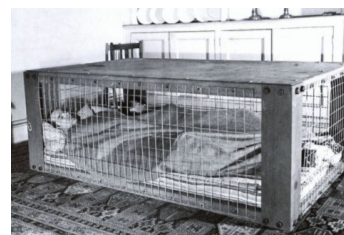


**Key vocabulary**

Blitz	The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and industrial areas.
Air raid	An attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft on to a ground target.
ARP	Air Raid Precautions (ARP) were organised by the national government and delivered by the local authorities. The aim was to protect civilians from the danger of air-raids. ARP wardens, air raid shelters and blackouts were some of the many precautions in place.
'Make Do and Mend'	The government slogan used when clothing rationing commenced. People were encouraged to do whatever they could to extend the life of their clothes, from darning socks to washing nylons more carefully. They were expected to repair, reuse and reimagine their existing clothes. This attitude went on to apply to things other than clothes.
VE/VJ Day	'Victory in Europe Day' was on 8th May 1945. It marked the day when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end. Germany had surrendered the day before.  'Victory over Japan Day' was later, when Japan surrendered. This was celebrated on 15th August 1945.



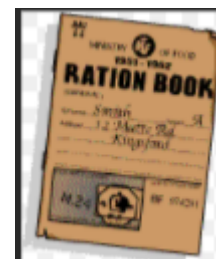
gas mask



Morrison shelter



Anderson shelter



**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'.



**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 (becoming members of the armed forces), 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.