

Key Vocabulary



<b>Blitzkrieg</b>	An intense military campaign intended to bring about a swift victory.
<b>Invasion</b>	An instance of invading a country or region with an armed force.
<b>Evacuation</b>	An action of removing a person from a place of danger. In WWII this involved moving children from large towns and cities to the countryside to avoid German bombing.
<b>Home Front</b>	Activities of a nation when the armed forces are away at war.
<b>The Blitz</b>	German bombing campaign against Britain in 1940/41. The main targets were large towns, cities and ports. London was the worst hit city in Britain.
<b>Stalingrad</b>	City named after the Soviet leader in South-Western Russia and the site of the biggest battle of WW2.
<b>Concentration Camp</b>	A place with large numbers of people usually occupied by political prisoners.
<b>VE-Day</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> May 1945, the date of the Allied victory over Germany.
<b>Convoy</b>	A group of ships or vehicles travelling together
<b>Antisemitism</b>	Discrimination or persecution of Jewish people.

Important People



	<b>Winston Churchill</b> - British politician, army officer and writer. He was Prime Minister during WWII leading Britain to victory.
	<b>Heinrich Himmler</b> - Was leader of the SS (Protection Squad) and a leading Nazi. He was the key individual behind the design and implementation Holocaust
	<b>Adolf Hitler</b> - Dictator of Germany who led Germany into the Second World War by breaking the Treaty of Versailles and invading Poland. Responsible for the death of over 6 million Jewish people.
	<b>Alan Turing</b> - A British mathematician who played a crucial role in cracking the famous Enigma Code, a secret communication system used by the Nazis during World War II
	<b>Aneurin Bevan</b> - A Welsh Labour MP who played a pivotal role in creating the British NHS at the end of the Second World War

Picture This



The Battle of Britain 1940

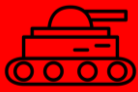


The Battle of The Atlantic



The bombing of Hiroshima 1945

**Key Fact:** Although Britain declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939, there was only a small amount of fighting. The 'Phoney War' ended in April 1940, when Germany invaded Norway



Key battles and events of World War Two



Evacuation of Dunkirk

**Theatre of War:** France

**Dates:** 26 May to 4 June 1940

**Location:** Dunkirk

**Outcome:** Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of around 350,000 British, French and Belgian troops from Dunkirk, enabled the Allies to continue the war and was a major boost to British morale.

Battle of the Atlantic

**Dates:** 1939 to 1943

**Location:** Atlantic Ocean

**Outcome:** The Germans put a halt to U-boat operations in the Atlantic on 23 May 1943. The term 'Battle of the Atlantic' was coined by Winston Churchill to describe the struggle by the Allies to secure shipping routes across the Atlantic. The Allies' main objectives were to blockade the Axis powers (limiting productivity and diminishing morale), to secure their own shipping routes.

Battle of Britain

**Theatre of War:** United Kingdom

**Dates:** June to September 1940

**Location:** Britain - the skies above the Southern Counties and the Channel

**Outcome:** British victory, forcing Hitler to postpone indefinitely his plans to invade England

**Note:** The Battle of Britain marked the first major use of radar, which strengthened British defensive capabilities enormously and was a significant contributor to eventual victory in the Low Countries

D-Day

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning.

The Holocaust

After the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, the Nazis stepped up the persecution of the Jewish people: They were herded into overcrowded 'ghettos'. After 1941, following the invasion of the Soviet Union, Nazi death-squads, called 'Einsatzgruppen', murdered more than a million Jewish people in Eastern Europe. In 1942, a Nazi conference at Wannsee decided on the 'Final Solution' - the Jewish people were to be taken to camps such as Auschwitz and gassed. An estimated 6 million Jewish people died during the Holocaust.

Operation Barbarossa

In June 1941, Hitler invaded Russia, known as Operation Barbarossa. This brought Russia back into the war, this time against Germany. The failure of Operation Barbarossa was the first major German defeat

In January 1943, the Russians defeated the Nazis at the Battle of Stalingrad.

Pearl Harbour

On Sunday 7 December 1941, the first of two waves of Japanese aircraft began their deadly attack on the US Pacific Fleet, moored at Pearl Harbor on the Pacific island of Oahu. Within two hours, five battleships had been sunk, another 16 damaged, and 188 aircraft destroyed. Only chance saved three US aircraft carriers, usually stationed at Pearl Harbor but assigned elsewhere on the day. The attacks killed under 100 Japanese but over 2,400 Americans, with another 1,178 injured. A day later on 8<sup>th</sup> December, The United States formally entered WWII

Tasks

Red: What was the 'Blitz Spirit'?

Amber: Explain why USA joined The Second World War.

Green: Describe how British people on the Home Front prepared for war.

Purple: Operation Barbarossa was the 'turning point' of World War Two. How far do you agree?

**Key Fact:** In total The Second World War claimed the lives of approximately 60 million people.