






# WORLD WAR II (Y5)



Main Participating Countries					
ALLIED POWERS			AXIS POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Flag	Country	Date Joined	Flag
FRANCE	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep, 1939		GERMANY	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep, 1939	
UK	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep, 1939		ITALY	11 <sup>th</sup> Jun, 1940	
SOVIET UNION	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun, 1941		BULGARIA	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar, 1941	
USA	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 1941		JAPAN	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 1941	

Key People	
<p><b>Sir Winston Churchill</b> – (1874-1965) was a British politician who served as the Prime Minister between 1940 and 1945 (most of World War II) and again from 1951 to 1955. He took over in May 1940, after a disastrous start to the war in which Nazi Germany had conquered much of Europe. He did his best to rally the nation in defiance of Adolf Hitler, possessed excellent military knowledge and forged crucial alliances with both the USA and Russia.</p> 	<p><b>Adolf Hitler</b> – (1889-1945) was a German politician who was the leader of the Nazi party, Chancellor of Germany from 1933-1945, and the Fuhrer of Germany from 1934-1945. Hitler's Germany invaded Poland in September 1939 to start the war, and it was he who initiated the Holocaust. He is therefore significantly responsible for the deaths of millions. He committed suicide on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1945, when it was clear the war was lost.</p> 
<p><b>Franklin Roosevelt</b> – (1882-1945) was the 32<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States, from 1933-1945. Whilst the USA remained officially neutral at the start of the war, Roosevelt offered diplomatic and financial support to the UK, Russia and China. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, he declared war on the Axis powers. The US helped the Allies to win the war - He died months before it ended.</p> 	<p><b>Anne Frank</b> – (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. She wrote a diary of her time there. After years in hiding, her family was betrayed and arrested, and Anne died of Typhus in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Her diary became famous after her death.</p> 
<p><u>Key vocabulary</u> Auschitz, Holocaust, Adolf Hitler, Gas mask, Bletchley Park, Dunkirk, Nazi, Air raid shelter, Evacuee, Rations</p>	<p><u>Bletchley Park</u> Bletchley Park is an English country house and estate in Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War.</p> 

Major Events			
Event	Image	Description	Date/s
WWII Begins		On 1 <sup>st</sup> September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave notice for the Germans to withdraw. When they did not, Britain and France declared war on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September.	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> September 1939
Evacuation of Children		People expected cities to be bombed, as enemy planes tried to hit targets. This put city children in danger, and so they were evacuated to the countryside.	September 1939 onwards
The Holocaust		The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany before and during WWII. It involved the murder of 6 million Jews, and millions of others. Many perished in concentration camps.	1933-1945
Evacuation of Dunkirk		Large numbers of British, French, and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers and seemed set to perish. Remarkably, 338,226 were saved by a fleet of 800 boats.	26 <sup>th</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1940
Battle of Britain		In the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended UK against attacks by Nazi Germany's air force: Luftwaffe.	10 <sup>th</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 1940
Attack on Pearl Harbor		This was a surprise military attack by Japan on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor. It led to the US joining the Allies in the war.	7 <sup>th</sup> December 1941
D-Day Landings		The Normandy Landings, also known as D-Day, were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history.	6 <sup>th</sup> June 1944
Hitler's Suicide		With the Germans facing defeat, Hitler married his long-time love Eva Braun on 29 <sup>th</sup> April. The next day, they committed suicide.	30 <sup>th</sup> April 1945
Germany Surrenders		Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, bringing to an end the European fighting in World War II.	7 <sup>th</sup> May 1945
America drops the atomic bombs		Japan refused to surrender. The US considered an invasion but had lost around 500,000 men. Instead, they dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 <sup>th</sup> Aug) and Nagasaki (9 <sup>th</sup> Aug).	6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> August 1945
WWII Ends		The surrender of Japan was announced on August 15 <sup>th</sup> 1945 and formally signed on 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1945. Allied civilians and military alike celebrated the end of World War II.	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1945

## Timeline of Major Events

1 Sep, 1939 – Germany invades Poland - WWII begins	Apr-Jun 1940 – Germany invades Denmark and Norway	May-Jun 1940 – Germany takes over most of Western Europe	Jul-Oct 1941 – The Battle of Britain	22 Jun 1941 – The Axis attack Russia	7-8 Dec 1941 – Japan attack US. US joins Allies	4 Jun 1942 – Battle of Midway. US beats Japan	3 Sep 1943 – Italy surrenders	6 June 1944 – D-Day – allies invade Normandy	25 Aug 1944 – Paris liberated from German control	7 May 1945 – Germany surrenders	Aug 1945 – The US drops atomic bombs on Japan	2 Sep 1945 – Japan surrenders – WWII is over.
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