























World War II

Main participating countries					
Allied Powers			Axis Powers		
Country	Date joined	Flag	Country	Date joined	Flag
France	3 rd Sept 1939		Germany	1 st Sept 1939	
UK	3 rd Sept 1939		Italy	11 th June 1940	
Soviet Union	22 nd June 1941		Bulgaria	1 st March 1941	
USA	8 th Dec 1941		Japan	7 th Dec 1941	

Key People	
 <p>Neville Chamberlain was the British Prime Minister who declared war on Germany. He was blamed for the loss of Norway to Germany and was seen as an uninspiring war time leader. As a result, he resigned as Prime Minister in May 1940.</p>	 <p>Winston Churchill took over as Prime Minister when Chamberlain resigned. Churchill is famous for the speeches he made during the war. He led the country to victory.</p>
 <p>Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany before and during the war. Hitler's Germany invaded Poland which started World War 2 and it was he who initiated the Holocaust. When it was clear Germany would not win, he committed suicide.</p>	 <p>Anne Frank was an ordinary Jewish girl. During World War 2, she went into hiding with her family where she kept a diary of her experiences, thoughts and feelings. In 1947, the diary was published as a book.</p>

The Home Front			
Event	Picture	Description	Fact
Gas masks issued		Everyone in Britain was given a gas mask in a cardboard box, to protect them from gas bombs, which could be dropped during air raids.	By September 1939, 38 million gas masks had been given out, house to house, to families. They were never to be needed.
The Home Guard		The Home Guard were volunteers who defended the five thousand miles of Britain coastline in the event of an invasion by Germany.	A quarter of a million men had volunteered in the first 24 hours after the initial radio broadcast.
ARP Wardens		ARP Wardens patrolled the streets during the blackout and to ensure that no light was visible. If a light was spotted, the warden would alert the person/people responsible. The ARP Wardens also reported the extent of bomb damage and assess the local need for help from the emergency and rescue services.	There were 1.4 million ARP wardens in Britain.
Evacuation		Children were evacuated and had to leave their parents. They were sent to live in the countryside where they were safer from the raids than in the cities.	Over 1 million children were evacuated during WW2.
The Black outs		The government ordered that after dark, street lights must be turned off, cars had to have special headlamps and people had to cover their windows and doors to stop any light so that German bombers did not know where they were.	To help prevent accidents white stripes were painted on the roads and on lamp-posts.
Rationing		Goods became scarce because German submarines started attacking ships that brought things to Britain. Rationing began in January 1940 and gradually food, petrol and clothes were rationed.	People were given ration books which had food coupons in them. Every time they bought food, the shopkeeper took a token.
Make do and mend campaign		Clothes and materials were in short supply, so people had to wear the same clothes for a long time. When the clothes wore out, people were asked to make them into something else.	Towards the end of the war, dressing gowns, blouses and underwear were made from surplus escape maps that were made from silk.
Dig for Victory Campaign		In October 1939, the Government launched 'The Dig for Victory' campaign. People were urged to use gardens and every spare piece of land, such as parks, golf clubs and tennis courts to grow vegetables.	Even the moat at the moat around the Tower of London was used to grow vegetables.
Air raid shelters		Some people built Anderson shelters in their gardens. These were made from strong steel sheets with soil over the top. There would often be a bench inside where people could sleep and a small entrance at one end.	Other areas were used as shelters, such as caves and London underground stations.
Propaganda posters		The war meant that many things were limited. Posters were created stressing the need to stop waste and unnecessary consumption, for the recycling of scarce materials, and for boosting food production from gardens and allotments.	The Allies dropped 6 million propaganda leaflets on Europe.

Main events during World War 2

1st September 1939 - Germany invades Poland	3rd September 1939 - Neville Chamberlain declares war on Germany. Canada, Australia, France and South Africa also declare war on Germany	10th May 1940 - Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister.	14th May 1940 - Home Guard is formed.	10th June 1940 - Italy declares war on Britain and France.	10th June 1940 - Battle of Britain begins.	7th September 1940 - London Blitz begins.	7th December 1941 - The Japanese attack Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.	8th December 1941 - The United States declares war on Japan.	11th December 1941 - Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.	16th May 1943 - Dam Buster raid.	6th June 1944 - British and US troops land in Normandy	30th April 1945 - Hitler commits suicide.	7th May 1945 - Germany surrenders to the west.	8th May 1945 - VE Day.	6th August 1945 - The first atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima by the US.	2nd Sept 1945 - Japan formally surrenders. World War II is over.
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