

Knowledge Organiser History Year 6 Autumn



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
"Love one another as I have loved you"

World War Two

Prior knowledge

- Features of rural and urban areas in the UK
- The chronology of British history
- Characteristics of London
- The location of Germany in the continent of Europe

The causes of World War II

- After the loss of WWI in 1918, Germany's economy had suffered.
- In 1934, the people voted for Hitler, the leader of the Nazi Party to lead them after he had offered them hope.
- Even though he spoke of peace, Hitler and the Nazi Party invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia.
- Two days after the invasion of Poland, Britain declared war on Nazi Germany.

Key words

Ally: a country's ally is another country that has an agreement to support it, especially in war
Allies: the Allies were the armed forces that fought against Germany and Japan in the Second World War, including the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France
Artefact: an object left as evidence in the life of an earlier time
Atom bomb: an extremely destructive type of nuclear bomb
Axis: the Axis were the armed forces that fought against the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The major Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan
Climate: the general weather conditions that are typical of a place.
Conscientious Objector: someone who refuses to fight in a war
Conscription: being made to join the armed forces to fight in a war
Evacuation: when children leave an area that might be dangerous and go somewhere safer to live
German-occupied: countries that were occupied by Nazi Germany; Austria, Poland and France were all German-occupied during WWII
Invasion: to try and take over a place by force
Liberate: to liberate a place or the people in it means to free them from the political or military control of another country, area, or group of people
Military: relating to or belonging to the army
Nazi: a member of the far-right political party in Germany
Occupied: under the control of an occupying military force
Rationing: when people are only allowed to buy a fixed amount of certain foods
Total War: everyone is involved in the war, not just the fighters
U-boat: German submarine

Historical knowledge and skills covered in this topic

- Children will research, select, organise and communicate findings.
- Children will develop a chronological understanding of WWII.
- Children will devise historically valid questions.
- Children will understand how knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
- Children will recognise the strengths and limitations of local history as a way of telling the story of WWII.
- Children will understand what caused WWII.
- Children will know what the Battle of Britain and the Blitz were.
- Children will research and investigate the impact of WW2 and the Blitz on Britain.

Allies, Axis and key events

- The major Axis powers were Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan.
- The major Allied powers were Britain, France, Russia, and the United States of America.
- The Axis had invaded many European countries including Austria, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Poland and France.
- The United States had hoped to remain neutral during World War II, however, in 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, USA which then meant that the USA turned against the Axis and joined the Allies.
- In 1942, Nazi forces attempted to invade Russia - however, by doing so, lost an ally.
- The Nazis were also not prepared for the cold in Russia and they suffered heavy defeats.
- 1944, the British landed on the French beaches of Normandy after a long planning operation to liberate German-occupied France; this was known as D-Day.
- The British were successful in liberating France; this alongside the disastrous battles in Russia, began the downfall of the Nazis.

