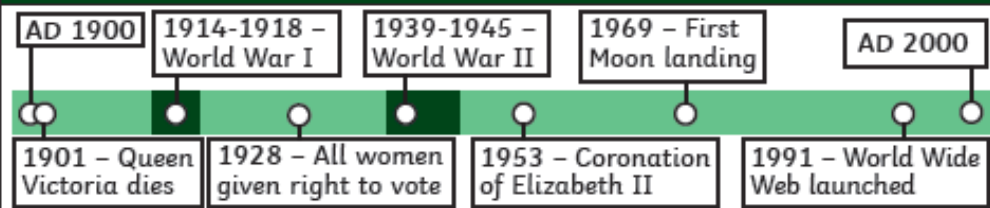




Year 6 WORLD WAR 2 - Key Knowledge Organiser

Timeline



How Did World War II Start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and **annexed** Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to **annex** the Sudetenland (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.

Key Events

1939	1 st September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 th July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 th September	The Blitz begins.
1941	22 nd June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1943	16 th and 17 th May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies .
	6 th and 9 th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.



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.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
atomic bomb	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
Czechoslovakia	A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
active service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

Children in WW2

Children in Britain were evacuated to the countryside to escape the bombing. They were put onto trains with a label on like they were parcels. They would live with another family in the countryside. It was a difficult time for children as they were split from their family.



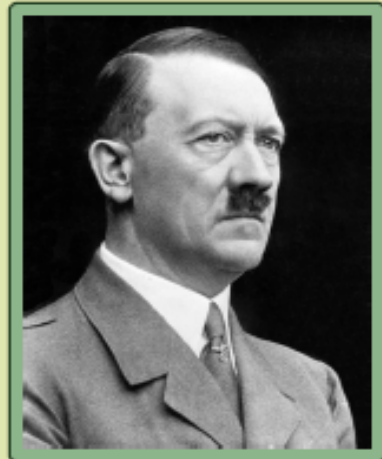
The Blitz

Blitz is short for the German word Blitzkrieg (lightning war). The Blitz happened from September 1940 – May 1941 when Germany frequently bombed London and other British cities. Night after night Germany would drop bombs from planes on ports, harbours and industrial areas. Over one third of London was destroyed. People were warned of an air raid by loud sirens. During the blitz, they became an almost daily part of life. When people heard the siren they would stop what they were doing and make for a shelter.



The Nazis

Adolf Hitler led a political party called the National Socialists which they shortened to Nazis. Hitler wanted Germany to be 'perfect'. This meant that anyone who was different or did not fit his 'perfect' image was killed. Hitler killed German citizens who were Jewish. Jewish people were treated differently. Anne Frank says in her diary, 'Jews were required to wear a yellow star, Jews were forbidden to use trams, Jews were required to turn in their bicycles, Jews were forbidden to use any public sports centres, Jews were not allowed to watch any form of entertainment.' All Jewish people were eventually taken to concentration camps which were like prison camps. The weak were quickly killed or died of starvation. Those left would be led into gas chambers in large groups to be killed with poison gas.



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'.



A ration book

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**, 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.