



Key vocabulary

Need to know	Nice to know	Super-specialist
allies	conscripted	ultimatum
axis	radar	telegram
invade	spitfire	kindertransport
surrender	commemorate	billeting officer
victory	infection	fire warden
bombing	Nazi party	holocaust
gas mask	home guard	concentration camp
code	dogfight	ghetto
radio	Anderson shelter	propaganda
evacuate	active service	Czechoslovakia
rationing	annex	blitz
home front	atomic	Stalingrad
blackout	Dunkirk	



The Battle of Britain and World War 2.



Learning Journey—In history, children will learn about the causes of world war 2, and study the effect the war had on life in Britain. They will study the battle of Britain, including the blackouts and evacuation, and learn more about life on the home front.

Children will study the key moments of the war, including Dunkirk and VE day. We will also examine how the war inspired advances in technology such as computing. Finally, we will examine how the experience of going to war changed life for women in Britain and the contributions of people many different ethnicities from across the British Empire.

Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them.

Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

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 Battle of Britain

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as **dogfights**.



Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7th September 1940 (the start of the Blitz). On 15th September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is **commemorated** every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.

Key Figures

Adolf Hitler

Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933 - 1945 (also referred to as the Führer meaning leader)

Winston Churchill

UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955)

Neville Chamberlain

UK Prime Minister, 1937 - 1940 (infamous for failed attempts to satisfy Hitler's demands prior to the war)

Franklin D. Roosevelt

US President, 1933 - 1945 (took the US into the war following the Pearl Harbor attacks)

Josef Stalin

General Secretary of the Communist Party and Leader of the USSR, 1929 - 1953

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	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 th and 8 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies . VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is celebrated the next day.
	6 th and 9 th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.
	2 nd September	Japan formally surrenders, ending the war.

Links to prior learning:

Geography: Countries and continents, ordinance survey map.

Science: forces, human body, nutrition and health, light, sound and electricity.

History: First world war, British Empire; Slavery; Victorians; black history month,

RE: Christianity and Judaism.

Recommended texts:

WW1

Where the poppies grow now, Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey; **The story of world war one**, Richard Brassey; **Archie's War**, Marcia Williams; **Stories of the First world war**, Jim Eldridge; **Frightful first world war**, Terry Deary; **Private Peaceful**, Michael Morpurgo; **DK findout! World war 1**.

WW2

Letters from the lighthouse, Emma Carroll; **Carrie's War**, Nina Bawden; **The lion and the unicorn**, Shirley Hughes; **My secret war diary**, Flossie Albright; **Tail -end Charlie**, Mick Manning; **Woeful Second World War**, Terry Deary; **The Blitzed Brits**, Terry Deary; **Jet the rescue dog**, David Long; **When Hitler stole pink rabbit**, Judith Kerr.

Links to future learning:

Further learning:

Science: Scientists and inventions.

Geography: Effects of colonialism in Africa and Asia.

History: European history post 1945, Cold war.

English/Art: How propaganda or advertising can be used to influence behaviour.

Online resources

https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_I

https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_II

Also see Espresso at www.discoveryeducation.co.uk which has lots of information on the wars.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-i/>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-ii/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/first-world-war/>

<https://historyforkids.org/wwi-trenches-facts-for-kids/>

Remembrance

Remembrance Day is held on the 11th of November - the 11th day of the 11th month of the year. A one minute silence is always held at 11am to remember the millions who have died at war.

The first Remembrance Day was held on 11th November 1919, one year after the end of the fighting in WW1.

Red poppies are used as a symbol of remembrance because millions of poppies grew on the battlefields of the Western Front. The ground was churned up due to the heavy shelling which allowed their seeds to spread.



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