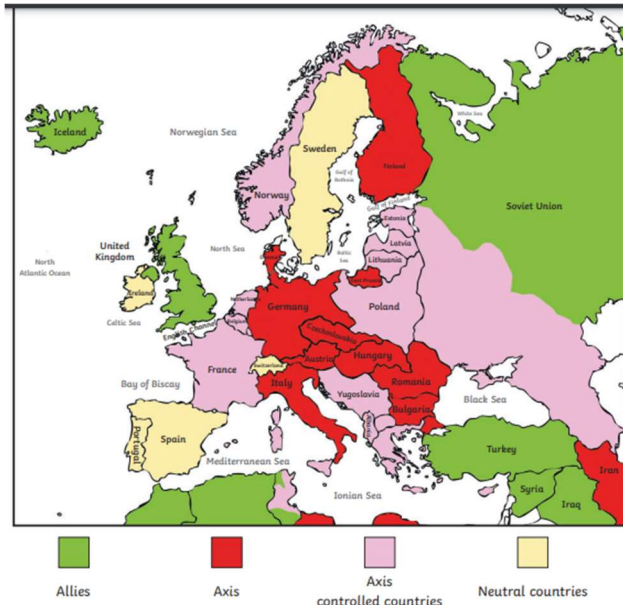


History Knowledge Organiser

KS2 The Great Wars Y6

WW2

Key maps



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

Key dates

Event	Description	Dates
Outbreak of WW2	On 1 st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave Germany notice to withdraw their troops. When they did not, Neville Chamberlain declared war on 3 rd September 1939.	1 st -3 rd September 1939
Evacuation of children	People expected cities to be bombed as the Germans tried to hit military or trade targets. This would put children in danger, so many were sent to live with families in the countryside until the war ended.	September 1939 onwards
The Holocaust	The holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany before and during WW2. It involved the murder of over 6 million Jewish people and millions of others, Many people perished in concentration camps.	1933-1945
Evacuation of Dunkirk	Large numbers of British, French and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers on the northern coast of France. 800 British boats set out and rescued many of them against the odds, although many men died.	26 th May-4 th June 1940
Battle of Britain	In the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended Britain from attacks by Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe planes.	10 th July-31 st October 1940
The Attack on Pearl Harbour	This was a surprise military attack by the Japanese on the naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. It led to the US joining the Allies in the war.	7 th December 1941
D-Day Landings	Also known as the Normandy Landings, these were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe.	6 th June 1944
Hitler's suicide	With the German army facing defeat, Hitler married his partner Eva Braun on the 29 th April and the next day they committed suicide.	30 th April 1945
Germany surrenders	Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, bringing an end to the fighting in Europe.	7 th May 1945
USA drops atomic bombs on Japan	Japan refused to surrender. The US considered invading, but instead dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 th August) and Nagasaki (9 th August).	6 th -9 th August 1945
WW2 ends	Japan surrendered on August 15 th and this was formally signed on the 2 nd September 1945.	2 nd September 1945

Knowledge to remember

- Angry at the outcome of WW1, Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, wanted Germany to rule Europe.
- To gain more land and power, on 1 September 1939 German troops invaded Poland.
- After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun.
- The group most heavily targeted by the Nazis were the Jews because they didn't fit the image of the perfect German and Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing WW1. Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust.
- The US did not join the war until 1941, when Japan attacked the United States at their Naval Base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. On 8 December 1941 (the very next day), the US declared War on Japan and, in turn, its German allies.

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Key historical figures

Sir Winston Churchill – (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.



Franklin Roosevelt – (1882-1945) was the 32nd 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 7th December 1941, he declared war on the Axis powers. The US helped the Allies to win the war - He died months before it ended.



Anne Frank – (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.



Joseph Stalin – (1878-1953) was the Communist leader/ dictator of the USSR during WWII. He had signed a non-aggression pact with Germany in August 1939, but in June 1941, Hitler broke it and the Germans invaded. Although initially suffering heavy losses, the USSR's key victories in pushing the Germans back signalled a shift in the war in favour of the Allies.



Adolf Hitler – (1889-1945) was a German politician who was the leader of the Nazi party, Chancellor of Germany from 1933-1945, and the Führer 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 30th April 1945, when it was clear the war was lost.



Benito Mussolini – (1883-1945) the leader of Italy's National Fascist Party. He was Prime Minister from 1922-1945 –from 1925 onwards this was not democratically as he established a dictatorship. Italy entered the war on the side of Germany in 1940, but suffered some disastrous losses. In 1943, Mussolini was dismissed as leader and arrested, but was rescued by Hitler's paratroopers. He was later caught and executed in 1945.

