

Year 4

WW2 - Knowledge Organiser

How did people's lives change during WW2?



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.

Conscripted: Required by law to serve their country in some way, usually in the armed forces.

Dogfight: An intense, in-air, close-range battle between individual or small groups of aircraft.

Commemorate: Mark or remember a past event.

Home front: Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.

Rationing: Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.

Evacuation: Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.

Key Questions and Facts

Why did Britain have to go to war in 1939?

Germany represented a direct threat to British security and the security of its empire. Accepting German domination of Europe had grave implications for British status and survival. Britain went to war in 1939 to defend the balance of power in Europe and safeguard Britain's position in the world.

Why were some places more likely to be bombed than others?

While London was bombed more heavily and more often than anywhere else in Britain, the Blitz was an attack on the whole country. Very few areas were left untouched by air raids. In relatively small compact cities, the impact of a severe air raid could be devastating.

How were people protected during the war?

Children and some women were evacuated from the big cities into the countryside. People carried gas masks to protect themselves against a possible gas attack. People built air raid shelters in their gardens. All windows and doors were blacked out to make it harder for the enemy planes to spot where they lived.

What was the role of women during WW2?

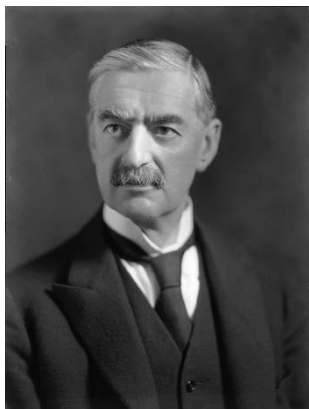
From 1941, women were called up for war work, in roles such as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens, bus and fire engine drivers.

While the most famous image of female patriotism during World War II is Rosie the Riveter, women were involved in other aspects of the war effort outside of factories. More than six million women took wartime jobs in factories, three million volunteered with the Red Cross, and over 200,000 served in the military

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.

Significant Individuals



Neville Chamberlain

Neville Chamberlain was prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1937 to 1940. He is best known for his role in the Munich Agreement of 1938 which ceded parts of Czechoslovakia to Hitler and is now the most popular example of the foreign policy known as appeasement.



Winston Churchill

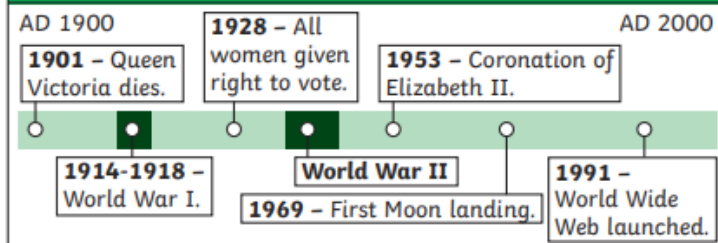
Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was a British statesman, soldier, and writer who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom twice, from 1940 to 1945 during the Second World War, and again from 1951 to 1955



Queen Elizabeth II

The queen, who served as a mechanic and truck driver in the last months of the war, was a tangible link to the sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines and others who signed up to do their bit in a conflict that killed 384,000 service personnel and 70,000 British civilians.

Timeline



Commemorative Events



Every year, special celebrations are planned to honour and remember the people whose lives were affected by the war. Large **commemorations** are usually held for events including the **evacuation** from Dunkirk, Holocaust Memorial Day, VE Day, D-Day and the Battle of Britain, as well as for Remembrance Day.

The Home Front



In order to make food and other supplies last as long as possible and ensure they were shared fairly, many items were **rationed**.



The government's 'Dig for Victory' campaign encouraged people to grow their own food. Some people also reared their own animals for meat and eggs. Clothes and other items were mended or made into new things.

Although national sports events were suspended during the war, there was plenty of entertainment. The radio was very popular and people also went to the cinema or dance halls. Children played outside or with board games, cards or handmade toys.



Over 3.5 million people, mostly children, were **evacuated** from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing.

With men away at war, women took on important jobs to help the war effort. Jobs included working in factories, engineering and shipbuilding, driving ambulances and nursing, working as Land Girls or air-raid wardens, or joining the armed forces themselves.

Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-world-war-two/zjnyscw>

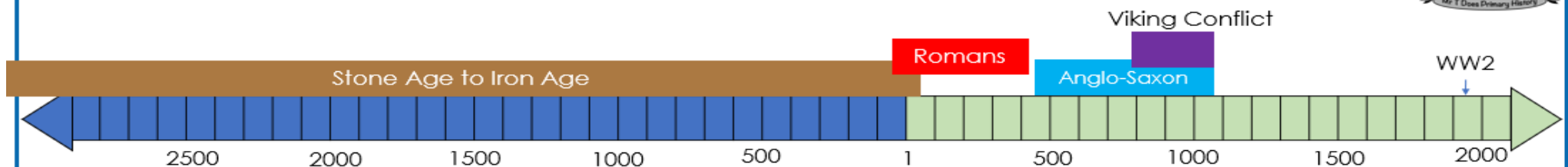
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/history-ks2-world-war-2-clips-index/zjc8cqt>

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

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/World-War-II/353934>

https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_II

British history



World history

