

Alder Coppice Primary School — Knowledge Organiser

HISTORY

Year: **6**

Unit 1: The Blitz - all we need to know about WWII?

Links to: World History

What I should already know:

- About invasion of countries to build Empires
- How events in the past can still have an impact on life today

Key Information:

Below: Remains of a house after a bombing raid during the Blitz



THE BLITZ (From the German word blitzkrieg meaning 'lightening war'). The 'Blitz' was a term used to describe the heavy bombing of London and other British cities during WW2. The attack on London by German bombers started on 7th September 1940 and it didn't end until May 1941.

The government did several things in preparation: Everyone was given a gas mask in case of a gas attack. The Blackout was imposed on the British public and Public air raid shelters were constructed. People also built their own shelters in their gardens.



Subject Vocabulary:

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

Location - a particular place or position or an area where someone lives.

Conflict - a serious disagreement or argument or a struggle between people which may be physical

Society - is the term to describe human beings living together in a community

Empire - an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.

Community - a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic or interests in common.

Source - a place, person, or thing from which something originates.

Unit Specific Vocabulary:

Blitz – The name given to the bombing of Britain during WWII (an intensive and sudden military attack)

Evacuee – A person who leaves their home due to immediate danger - children and some women were evacuated during WWII

Home Guard - volunteers who defended the five thousand miles of Britain coastline in the event of an invasion by Germany. They were originally called the Local Defence Volunteers.

Propaganda - information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view: In World War II, propaganda was used to raise the morale of people at home, and those fighting abroad and to make the enemy seem more brutal.

Rationing – a system for distributing food fairly - during WWII everyone was issued with a ration book of coupons that their local shopkeeper would cross out each time they bought something. Some foods weren't rationed such as fish, fruit and vegetables. However, as supplies decreased, they became expensive and difficult to find. Clothes were also rationed.

Skills & Enquiry:

- Find out about the past from historical sources - **Historical Enquiry**
- Analyse the reliability of historical sources - **Interpretations**
- Compare life past and present - **Chronology, Change & Continuity, Characteristic Features, Cause & Consequence.**
- Understand how life in the past still affects life today - **Significance - Legacies**

Key People:

Neville Chamberlain & Sir Winston Churchill - British Prime Ministers during WWII



'History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.'
Churchill

Adolf Hitler -Leader of the German National Socialist party and dictator of Germany .



Time Line:

1939 September 1 - Germany invades [Poland](#). **World War II begins.**

1939 September 3 - France and Great Britain declare war on Germany.

1940 May 10 -  **Winston Churchill** becomes the new British Prime Minister, replacing Neville Chamberlain

1940 May 14 - The Local Defence Volunteers (Dad's Army) is created in Britain. It was later called the [Home Guard](#).

1940 May 26 to June 4 - Evacuation of **Dunkirk**

1940 July 10 - Germany launches an air attack on Great Britain. These attacks last until the end of October and are known as the **Battle of Britain**.

1940 September 7 - Repeated bombing of British cities - **The Blitz** begins.

1941 December 7 - Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US. 


1941 Dec 8. - The **United States** declares war on Japan, entering World War II.

1941 Dec 11 -  The United States formally declares war on Germany and  Italy.

1944 June 6 - **D-day landings** and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.

1944 May 7 - Germany surrenders to the Allies

1945 May 8  **Winston Churchill** announces **VE Day** - **Victory in Europe**. British people waved flags, sang and danced in the streets and held parties. **WW2 ends Europe.**

1945 Sept. 2 - Having agreed in principle to unconditional surrender on August 14 1945,  Japan formally surrenders, **ending World War II.**