



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY: WORLD WAR 2

Y6 AUTUMN TERM

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS:	
DATE	WHAT HAPPENED
1939	Germany invades Poland – 1 st September and Britain and France declare war on Germany two days later.
1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rationing starts in the UK• Germany invades Belgium, Holland and France• Battle of Britain
1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany invades Russia• Japan attacks Pearl Harbour• USA enters the war
1942	Japan invades Singapore
1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allied success in Russia and North Africa• Italy surrenders
1944	D-day – Allied invasion in France – Paris is liberated in August
1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany surrenders on 7th May• Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – Japan surrenders on 14th August.

KEY VOCABULARY:	
WORDS	MEANING
Artefact	an object left as evidence of life in an earlier time.
Conscientious objector	someone who refuses to fight in a war
Conscription	being made to join the armed forces to fight in a war
Evacuation	when children leave an area that might be dangerous and go somewhere safer to live
Rationing	when people are only allowed to buy a fixed amount of certain foods
Total war	everyone is involved in the war, not just fighters
U-boat	German submarine

KEY KNOWLEDGE:	
QUESTION 1: Why did World War 2 start?	
ANSWER World War 2 started in 1939. Britain and France declared war on Germany after Hitler invaded Poland.	
QUESTION 2: Which countries were involved in World War 2?	
ANSWER Although initially Britain and France were involved in fighting Germany, Belgium and Holland were invaded in 1940 and USA joined the allies in 1941, when Germany also invaded Russia. Japan and Italy supported Germany.	
QUESTION 3: Why were children evacuated and where were they sent?	
ANSWER Children were evacuated to move from dangerous areas to safer places. Most of these children were in cities where enemy planes were trying to destroy factories but also were bombing homes and schools. The majority of children were sent to live with families in the countryside.	



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QUESTION 4: How did people eat differently during World War 2?

ANSWER

Food rationing began in 1940. This meant each person could only buy a fixed amount of certain foods each week. Rationing made sure everyone got a fair share.

QUESTION 5: What impact did the War have on Bexley?

ANSWER

Hall Place in Bexley was used as part of operation "ULTRA" – code breaking with Bletchley Park in WW2. American troops stationed there helped wardens to put out and rescue people from fires caused by numerous bombings.

KEY PEOPLE:

NAME	WHAT THEY DID
Neville Chamberlain	British Prime Minister 1937 – 1940
Winston Churchill	British Prime Minister 1940 – 1945
Adolf Hitler	Chancellor of Germany 1933 – 1945
Benito Mussolini	Prime Minister of Italy 1922 – 1943
Franklin Roosevelt	US President 1933 – April 1945
Harry Truman	US President April 1945 until the end of the War

KEY PLACES:

NAME	WHAT HAPPENED THERE
Hamburg	Allied bombing of Hamburg in 1943 (3 raids over 3 nights) by 800 RAF planes, killed 40,000 people
Hiroshima Nagasaki	Atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by Truman in 1945. Killing between 129,000 and 226,000 people.
Coventry	German bombing of Coventry by 400 bombers. 100,000 people fled the city, 554 people died.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO FIND OUT MORE:

www.ducksters.com/history/world_war_ii

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2