



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	22 nd June	Germany invades the USSR (Soviet Union).
	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1943	16 th and 17 th May	The Dambusters bombing raid is carried out.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings
1945	7 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies .
	6 th and 9 th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.

How did World War II start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of **Czechoslovakia**) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of **Czechoslovakia**, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

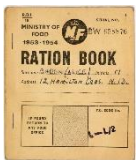
The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and didn't go out to work. Those who did work were paid less than men and were generally restricted to 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men were called up for **active service**, women were needed to do jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves. After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could carry on leading more independent lives



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**'.



What should I already know?

Children will be aware of the European capitals that are outlined at the beginning of the topic. This geographical knowledge will support them in understanding the outbreak of WWII.

What will I know by the end of this term?

- I will be able to summarise the main events from a specific period in history.
- To be able to summarise what Britain may have learnt from other countries and civilizations through time gone by and more recently.
- I will describe features of historical events and people from past societies and periods they have studied.
- I will be able to recognise and describe differences and similarities between different periods of history.

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.	Rationing – rationing allowed each person to have only a fixed amount of something such as food or clothing.	Annex - To take another country's land and make it part of your country.	Evacuated – removing someone from a place of danger to a safer place.
Axis - The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.	Atomic bomb - A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.	Czechoslovakia - A European country. Now two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.	Active service - Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.

