







# WORLD WAR II KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Main Participating Countries					
ALLIED POWERS			AXIS POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Flag	Country	Date Joined	Flag
FRANCE	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep, 1939		GERMANY	1 <sup>st</sup> Sep, 1939	
UK	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep, 1939		ITALY	11 <sup>th</sup> Jun, 1940	
SOVIET UNION	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jun, 1941		BULGARIA	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar, 1941	
USA	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 1941		JAPAN	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 1941	

Key People	
<p><b>Sir Winston Churchill</b> – (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.</p> 	<p><b>Adolf Hitler</b> – (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 30<sup>th</sup> April 1945, when it was clear the war was lost.</p> 
<p><b>Franklin Roosevelt</b> – (1882-1945) was the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, he declared war on the Axis powers. The US helped the Allies to win the war - He died months before it ended.</p> 	<p><b>Benito Mussolini</b> – (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.</p> 
<p><b>Joseph Stalin</b> – (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.</p> 	<p><b>Anne Frank</b> – (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.</p> 

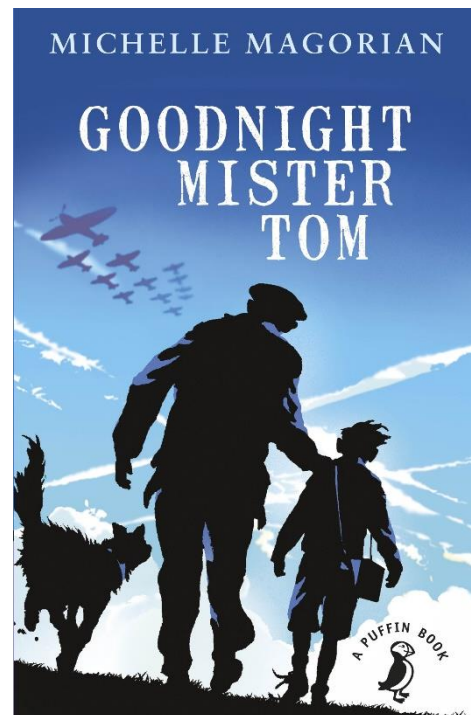
Major Events				
Event	Image	Description	Date/s	Fact
<b>WWII Begins</b>		On 1 <sup>st</sup> September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave notice for the Germans to withdraw. When they did not, Britain and France declared war on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September.	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> September 1939	Hitler claimed to attack Poland to give the German people 'Lebensraum' – living space
<b>Evacuation of Children</b>		People expected cities to be bombed, as enemy planes tried to hit targets. This put city children in danger, and so they were evacuated to the countryside.	September 1939 onwards	About 800,000 children left their homes throughout the war.
<b>The Holocaust</b>		The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany before and during WWII. It involved the murder of 6 million Jews, and millions of others. Many perished in concentration camps.	1933-1945	During the Holocaust, about two thirds of the Jews in Europe were killed.
<b>Evacuation of Dunkirk</b>		Large numbers of British, French, and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers and seemed set to perish. Remarkably, 338,226 were saved by a fleet of 800 boats.	26 <sup>th</sup> May – 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1940	The first day of the evacuation was not as promising as it was expected. It resulted in the rescue of just 8000 soldiers.
<b>Battle of Britain</b>		In the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended UK against attacks by Nazi Germany's air force: Luftwaffe.	10 <sup>th</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 1940	This was seen by many as Germany's first major defeat in the war.
<b>Attack on Pearl Harbor</b>		This was a surprise military attack by Japan on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor. It led to the US joining the Allies in the war.	7 <sup>th</sup> December 1941	188 aircraft were destroyed and 2,403 Americans were killed.
<b>D-Day Landings</b>		The Normandy Landings, also known as D-Day, were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history.	6 <sup>th</sup> June 1944	Between 14,000 and 19,000 men died in the D-Day landings
<b>Hitler's Suicide</b>		With the Germans facing defeat, Hitler married his long-time love Eva Braun on 29 <sup>th</sup> April. The next day, they committed suicide.	30 <sup>th</sup> April 1945	There is debate as to how they killed themselves.
<b>Germany Surrenders</b>		Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, bringing to an end the European fighting in World War II.	7 <sup>th</sup> May 1945	VE (Victory in Europe) Day is still celebrated on 8 <sup>th</sup> May.
<b>America drops the atomic bombs</b>		Japan refused to surrender. The US considered an invasion, but have lost around 500,000 men. Instead, they dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 <sup>th</sup> Aug) and Nagasaki (9 <sup>th</sup> Aug).	6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> August 1945	It is thought that 135,000 people died in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.
<b>WWII Ends</b>		The surrender of Japan was announced on August 15 <sup>th</sup> 1945 and formally signed on 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1945. Allied civilians and military alike celebrated the end of World War II.	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1945	Some rogue Japanese soldiers and pilots refused to surrender even into the 1970s!

## Glossary:

- **Allied Powers** - Countries that fought against the Axis Powers. Primary members included the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, France, and China.
- **Appeasement** - This was the policy of many countries when Hitler first started to take over Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia. They gave in to Hitler's demands in order to avoid going to war. When Hitler invaded Poland, they realized that appeasement would not work and France and Great Britain declared war on Germany.
- **Axis Powers** - An alliance formed by Germany, Italy, and Japan. These countries wanted to expand and conquer other countries. They were opposed by the Allied Powers.
- **Concentration camp** - A place where the Germans put people they did not like such as Jewish people.
- **D-Day** - The day that United States and British forces attacked the German forces on the shores of Normandy, France. A turning point in the war as the Allies defeated the Germans.
- **Evacuation**- This means leaving a place. During WW2 many children living in big cities were moved temporarily to places that were safer.
- **Fascism** - A type of government ruled by a dictator. Germany with Hitler and Italy with Mussolini were fascist governments.
- **Fuhrer** - The title Adolf Hitler gave himself. It means "leader" in German.
- **Gestapo** - The Nazi police force. They were mean and very powerful in Germany during WWII. They hunted down enemies of the Nazi party as well as Jewish people.
- **Holocaust** - A term used to describe the murder of 6 million Jewish people by the German Nazi Party.
- **Luftwaffe** - The name for the German air force.
- **Nazi** - The Nazi Party was a political party in Germany led by Adolf Hitler. The full name was the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party.
- **Propaganda**- Information that is biased or misleading, used to promote a point of view.
- **RAF** - The air force of Great Britain. It stands for the Royal Air Force.
- **Rations**- A fixed amount of food or commodity during a time of shortage.
- **V-E Day** - Victory in Europe Day. The day the Allied victory in Europe was celebrated; May 8, 1945.
- **Wehrmacht** - The name for the German army



## OUR POWER OF READING TEXT



### MORE FICTION BOOKS RELATING TO WW2

- *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden,
- *An Elephant In The garden/Friend Or Foe/Waiting For Anya* by Michael Morpurgo,
- *Letters From The Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll,
- *My Secret War Diary* by Flossie Albright and Marcia Williams,
- *Rose Blanche* by Ian McEwan,
- *Wave Me Goodbye* by Jacqueline Wilson,
- *The Emergency Zoo* by Miriam Halahmy,
- *Back Home* by Michelle Magorian,
- *Blitzcat* by Robert Westall

### PLACES TO VISIT RELATING TO WW2

- Imperial war Museum,
- Churchill War Rooms, Bletchley Park (code breaking),
- The Trenchard Museum,
- Roald Dahl Museum -Great Missenden( he was an RAF pilot in WW2),
- Hughenden- High Wycombe.

**Year 6 will be visiting Chiltern Open Air Museum to take part in the "Goodnight Mr Tom theme day" Actors will immerse the children inside the world of the 1940s bringing the story to life!**

Throughout our topic, we will be referring to and aiming to answer our **big question** 'Does war really solve problems?' We will also explore the **key concepts** of **community**, **resilience** and **prejudice** and help the children to link the ideas that we are learning about to the world we live in now.

### **Timeline of Major Events**

1 Sep, 1939 – Germany invades Poland - WWII begins	Apr-Jun 1940 – Germany invades Denmark and Norway	May-Jun 1940 – Germany takes over most of Western Europe	Jul-Oct 1941 – The Battle of Britain	22 Jun 1941 – The Axis attack Russia	7-8 Dec 1941 – Japan attack US. US joins Allies	4 Jun 1942 – Battle of Midway. US beats Japan	3 Sep 1943 – Italy surrenders	6 June 1944 – D-Day – allies invade Normandy	25 Aug 1944 – Paris liberated from German control	7 May 1945 – Germany surrenders	Aug 1945 – The US drops atomic bombs on Japan	2 Sep 1945 – Japan surrenders – WWII is over.
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