

Second World War Timeline

Before the Second World War

1934	August Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazi party, becomes the leader of Germany
1936	March German troops break the Treaty of Versailles when they occupy the Rhineland
1938	March Austria becomes part of the German Empire which is known as the Third Reich

During the Second World War

1939	September The Second World War begins when Germany invades Poland In the first 3 days of evacuation 1.5 million children and vulnerable adults leave British cities
1940	January Rationing starts July – October The Battle of Britain takes place September The Blitz begins
1941	May The Blitz ends December Japanese planes bomb the American naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, leading to the United States entering the war
1944	6 June Allied troops land in Normandy, France to free western Europe from German control (D Day)
1945	January Allied forces begin to free prisoners of war from German concentration camps April Hitler commits suicide May Germany surrenders. The Second World War in Europe ends (Victory in Europe Day) August Japan surrenders (Victory over Japan Day) The Second World War ends

After the Second World War

1945	October The United Nations is created to make sure a world war doesn't happen again
1954	July Rationing ends in Britain

The Second World War 1939-45

On one side were **Axis Powers** (including Germany, Italy and Japan). On the other side were the **Allied Powers** (including Britain, France, Soviet Union and the USA). After 6 years of fighting the Allied Powers won. Children as well as adults were affected by the war.

Key Leaders



Adolf Hitler
Leader of Germany



Benito Mussolini
Prime Minister of Italy



Michinomiya Hirohito
Emperor of Japan



Winston Churchill
Prime Minister of Great Britain



Charles de Gaulle
President of France



Joseph Stalin
Leader of the Soviet Union



Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the USA

Key Vocab

Invade	To enter or occupy a country by force
Empire	A group of different countries with one leader
Nazi	A follower of Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi party
Evacuee	A child or vulnerable adult who was sent away from a city to live in the countryside
Persecute	To treat someone cruelly or unfairly
Rationing	The limited supply of food, clothes and other goods to prevent shortages
Blitz	A military attack in which many bombs are dropped from airplanes
Air Raid Shelter	Shelters to protect people during a bombing
Axis Powers	Countries that united to fight against the Allied Powers
Allied Powers	Countries that united to fight against the Axis Powers

Anne Frank

Anne was a German Jew who wrote a diary about her experiences during the war. She lived in Amsterdam with her family, but - in 1942 - the Franks were forced to go into hiding from the Nazis who wanted to get rid of Europe's Jewish population. During this time in hiding, Anne kept a diary, which would go on to become one of the most famous books in the whole world. She would never live to see her dream of becoming a writer a reality, as she was tragically killed in the Holocaust. It was her father who published her writing, as he survived World War Two and her diary was passed on to him.

The Blitz

The word **Blitz** is short for the German word 'Blitzkrieg', which means 'lightning war'.

From September 1940 until May 1941, Germany began air raids in which they bombed parts of Britain at night-time. They decided to concentrate on bombing London but also bombed other cities.

Sirens were sounded in the streets to warn civilians that bombers were coming.

To escape the bombs people went into air raid shelters.

Thousands of people were killed and many homes and buildings were destroyed.

Evacuation

During the war, German planes dropped bombs on British cities in an attempt to destroy factories, dockyards and airfields. Homes and schools were also hit.

The government decided to evacuate children from the cities, where they might be in danger, to the countryside where they would be safer.

Children who were evacuated were called **evacuees**. They went to live with other families who came to village halls to pick which evacuee they would like to take home. looked after them until the war ended.

WWII ended in September 1945, however evacuation did not officially end until March 1946 when it was felt that Britain was no longer under threat from invasion.

Rationing

At the start of the war, Britain was importing more than two-thirds of its food from overseas. When supply ships coming into the country were targeted by German bombers it became necessary for Britain to conserve as much food as possible.

People needed to become more creative with the supplies they had and began to grow more of their own food.

The rationing of food began in January 1940, which meant that each person could only buy fixed amounts of certain foods each week. Every person was issued with a ration book, and they had to hand over coupons from their ration book, as well as money, when they went shopping.

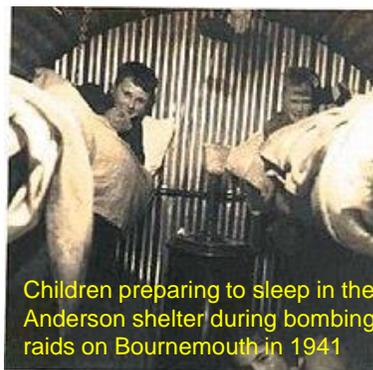
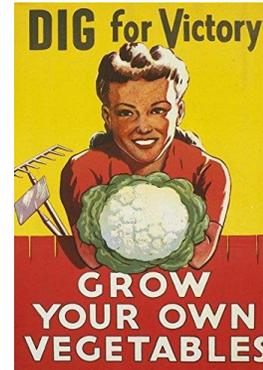
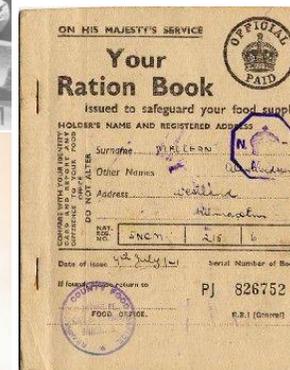
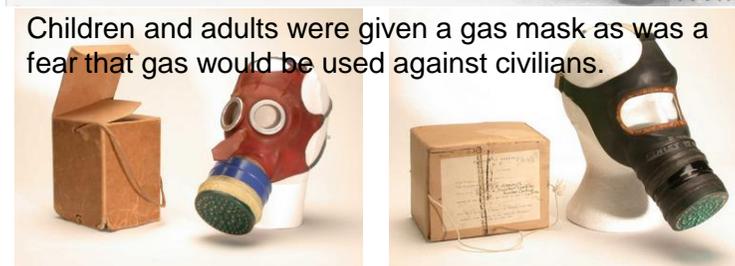
Many foods were rationed such as butter, bacon, sugar, meat, cheese and milk, but some were not including potatoes and fish.

People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables through the 'Dig for Victory' campaign.



A policeman helps young evacuees and the nun escorting them at a London station on 18 May 1940

Children and adults were given a gas mask as was a fear that gas would be used against civilians.



Children preparing to sleep in the Anderson shelter during bombing raids on Bournemouth in 1941