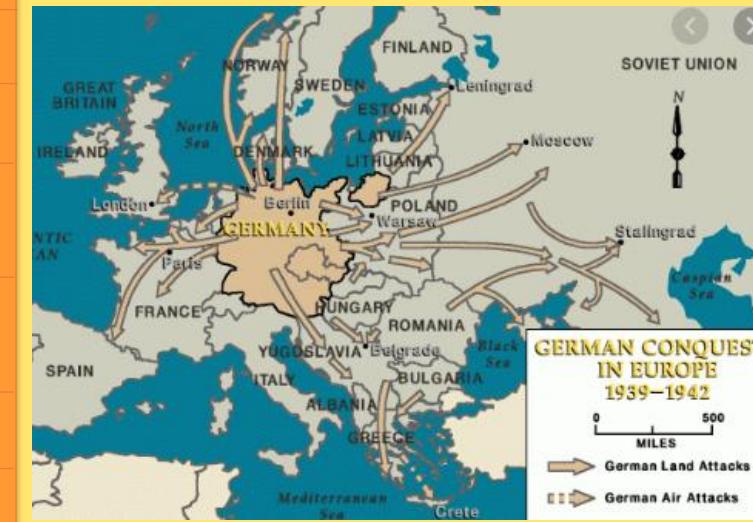


VOCABULARY

Allies –	Countries which fought on the British side (France, USA, Russia)
Evacuee –	Someone who was moved from a dangerous area to a safe one. Cities to countryside
Blackout –	A system to ensure no lights were visible after dark
Rationing –	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (food/clothing)
Air raid shelter –	A building to protect people from bombs dropped by planes
Axis –	Countries which fought on the German side (Italy, Japan, etc)
Nazi –	Member of the fascist German party which came to power in 1933
Blitz -	Series of aerial bombing raids on the UK mainly cities – London, Birmingham, Bristol etc
Holocaust –	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis
Fascism –	Political view that didn't allow opposition and was under total control by a dictator
Blitzkrieg -	Translated as 'Lightning war' Germany's quick invasion of Western Europe
Luftwaffe –	The German Air force – responsible for the Blitz
Enigma –	A machine used by the Nazis to send coded messages
Propaganda -	Information to make people think in a certain way.

Period Overview: In 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany – the second war with Germany to take place in a period of 20 years. Children will learn what led up to the outbreak of war, the impact on life in Britain, Dunkirk, the change to women's lives, Pearl Harbour, D day landings, VE day, the holocaust and the end of the war – Atomic bomb detonations.

German invasions of Europe



Dunkirk: When war began, Britain sent thousands of soldiers over to France to help protect the country. However, the Germans rapidly invaded France with a vast army and sent British and French forces fleeing for the coast. They headed to Dunkirk a beach in France in the hope of being taken back to Britain by ship. What followed is known to be the largest mass evacuation in history. As Germans bombed the beaches, back in Britain, Churchill was organising any and every ship capable of sailing across the English Channel into a master plan to get their army back. 338,226 men were brought back from France.



WWII Leaders -

Neville Chamberlain – UK prime minister 1937-1940 – infamous for attempting to make peace with Hitler before the war began
Winston Churchill – UK prime minister 1940-1945 & 1951-1955 (see below)
Adolf Hitler – Leader of the Nationalist socialist German's workers party
Franklin D Roosevelt – US president 1933 -1945 – took the US into the war after the attacks at Pearl Harbour
Harry S Truman – US President 1945-1953 – responsible for the decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan
Joseph Stalin – Leader of the USSR during WWII



Causes of WWII:

Children will learn about some of the events between WWI & WWII that contributed to the start of a second world war. These were –

1. Germany losing WWI – they had to pay reparations, lost land & reduced their army size – made life difficult for German people
2. Adolf Hitler – Rallied the German people and broke rules put in place to protect the rest of Europe
3. Invasion – Hitler and the German army began to invade countries and areas around Europe
4. 'Peace in our time' – Neville Chamberlain persuaded Hitler to sign a paper that said he wouldn't invade anywhere else.
5. Invasion – Hitler broke the promise and invaded Poland
6. WWII began



Woman at war:

Even though women were not officially allowed to fight in wars, the war would have been impossible to win without them. There many roles included farm workers, factory workers, ambulance drivers, mechanics, nurses, bomb disposal team and more.

Rationing: Before the Second World War started Britain imported about 55 million tons of food a year from other countries. After war was declared in September 1939, the British government had to cut down on the amount of food it brought in from abroad as German submarines started attacking British supply ships. There was a worry that this would lead to shortages of food supplies in the shops so the British government decided to introduce a system of rationing in January 1940.

Rationing's aim was to make sure that everyone got an equal share of food. The government was worried that as food became scarcer, prices would rise and poorer people might not be able to afford to eat. There was also a danger that some people might hoard food, leaving none for others.

Every person in Britain was given a ration book and they could only have the amount that was in their ration books.

Bacon, butter and sugar were the first foods to be rationed followed by meat, cheese, tinned tomatoes, rice, jam, tea, eggs, peas, canned fruit, biscuits, cereal, milk, dried fruit & cooking fat. Clothes were also rationed.

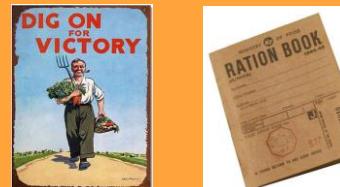
People were encouraged to provide their own food at home. The 'Dig for Victory' campaign started in October 1939 and called for every man and woman to keep an allotment. Lawns and flower-beds were turned into vegetable gardens. Chickens, rabbits, goats and pigs were reared in town parks and gardens. Food rationing lasted for 14 years until 1954.

Soldiers of an empire: In 1939, Britain still had a very large empire and people within these countries were expected to fight too. Many thought it was unfair that people in places such as India, Africa and the Caribbean were expected to fight for a country thousands of miles away from their own. These soldiers were often treated poorly because of the colour of their skin though it is suggested the war would not have been won without them.



Evacuation: During the Second World War, many children living in big cities and towns were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually out in the countryside due to the thought that the German Luftwaffe would begin to drop bombs soon. The British evacuation began on Friday 1 September 1939.

The first evacuation began two days before the war was officially declared but the bombs didn't drop immediately so many children came back. When the Germans began the 'Blitz' on cities across the country, over 1,000,000 women and children were evacuated to villages and towns across Britain including Weston-super-Mare. Most children were evacuated without their mothers and children as young as 3 were put on trains and travelled to strange places where they knew no one. They were taken to live in strangers houses. For many this was a wonderful experience, living in the countryside and experiencing things they hadn't before but for some it was a terrible time as they missed their families and ended up with people who didn't want children. Each child was allowed one suitcase with certain items in it and would go to the local school with the village children.



VE Day:

On 8th May 1945 the war in Europe was over and victory was celebrated throughout the country. Flags were put up, tables laid, parties had, as people celebrated peace. Not long after the war in Japan also came to an end which declared the end of WWII.



Possible Enquiry Questions:

- In what ways did people help each other during the war?
- Why did some children describe evacuation as the best times of their lives and others say it was awful?
- How did women contribute towards winning the war?
- How did the war change life?

Philosophy questions:

Should we believe everything we are told?

Will we continue to remember and why should we?

Blitz & Blackout: The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and industrial areas.

London was bombed ever day and night, bar one, for 11 weeks. One third of London was destroyed. 32,000 people were killed. The bombing also affected the local area we live in.



Because of the bombing, the whole of Britain were expected to black their windows out so that bombers in the sky couldn't see where to drop their bombs. Air raid precaution wardens would patrol the streets at night to ensure people were following the rules.

Battles: The war was fought on many different fronts and there were many battles throughout.

Children will learn about sea battles in the Atlantic Ocean, air battles across the skies of Britain and land battles throughout various parts of Europe.

They will think about why these battles happened and what they meant for the people involved – allies and axis.



Pearl Harbour – On Dec 7th 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbour in Hawaii which is a part of the USA. Many ships were destroyed and people lost their lives. This is what triggered America joining WWII as before this they had refused to become involved.

America joining strengthened the allies as they began fighting in the Pacific ocean and in Europe.

D-day landings – Children will learn about the d-day landings in 1944 and their contribution towards the end of the war.

