



# A Child's War

## Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

### The Second World War

- The Second World War lasted from 1939-1945.
- On one side were the Axis Powers (including Germany, Italy and Japan).
- On the other side were the Allied Powers (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA).
- After 6 years of fighting, the Allied Powers won.

### Evacuation

- During World War II, over 3.5 million children, were evacuated from the cities to the countryside.
- All evacuees had to take their **gas mask**, **ration book** and **identity card**.
- When they reached their destination, a **billeting officer** would arrange a host family for them.
- **Evacuation** happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939.
- Other waves occurred at the start of the **Battle of Britain** and at the start of the **Blitz**.



### Key vocabulary

- Adolf Hitler** – leader of Germany throughout World War 2.
- Air raid** – an attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft on to a ground target.
- Blackout** – when towns or cities were made so dark that they cannot be seen by enemy planes.
- Evacuee** – a child or vulnerable adult who was sent away from a city to live in the countryside, which was considered safer.
- Invade** – to enter or occupy a country by force
- Nazi** – a follower of Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi party.
- War** – a state of armed conflict between different countries.
- Rationing** – the limited supply of food, clothes and other goods to prevent shortages.

### Key leaders

#### Allied leaders



**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 United States

#### Axis leaders



**Adolf Hitler**  
Leader of Germany



**Benito Mussolini**  
Prime Minister of Italy



**Michinomiya Hirohito**  
Emperor of Japan

### Second World War timeline

#### During the Second World War

- 1939 1st September** The Second World War begins when Germany invades Poland.
- September** In the first three days of evacuation, 1.5 million children and vulnerable adults leave British cities.
- 1940 8th January** Rationing starts.
- 10th July–31st October** The Battle of Britain takes place.
- 7th September** The Blitz begins.
- 1941 10th May** The Blitz ends.
- 7th December** Japanese planes bomb the American naval base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, leading to the United States entering the war.
- 1944 6th 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.
- 30th April** Adolf Hitler commits suicide.
- 8th May** Germany surrenders. The Second World War in Europe ends (Victory in Europe Day).
- 26th July** Clement Attlee replaces Winston Churchill as Prime Minister of Great Britain.
- 15th August** Japan surrenders (Victory over Japan Day). The Second World War ends.

#### After the Second World War

- 1945 24th October** The United Nations is created to make sure a world war doesn't happen again.
- 1954 4th July** Rationing ends in Britain.

