

What were the main events of World War 2?

Evacuation: Many children living in big cities and towns were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually out in the countryside.

Rationing: Rationing was introduced in 1940. 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. All sorts of essential and non-essential foods were rationed, as well as clothing, furniture and petrol.

Blitz: The word 'Blitz' is short for the German word 'Blitzkrieg', which means 'lightning war'. From September 1940 - May 1941, Germany began air raids in which they bombed parts of Britain at night-time. They concentrated on bombing London and on 7th September 1940, London's first night of the Blitz took place, killing over 2000 people.

Role of the women: Before WWII, women were expected to be 'housewives' or do certain 'women's jobs', like nursing or being a shop assistant. The war changed the world of work for women for ever. When men went to fight, women were called upon to fill their jobs. This included many jobs that were previously thought of as unsuitable for women (such as building ships, working in the factories, making bombs and aircraft parts, being a mechanic or a plumber).

Holocaust: The Holocaust was a period in history at the time of World War Two (1939-1945), when millions of Jews were murdered because of who they were. The killings were organised by Germany's Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler. Nearly seven out of every 10 Jews in Europe were murdered because of their identity.

Concentration camps: During WWII, many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers.

VE Day: VE (Victory in Europe) Day is celebrated on the 8th May each year. This marks the day that Germany surrendered in 1945. Following Japan's surrender, WWII officially ended on 2nd September 1945.

Key vocabulary:

Dictator: A political leader who possesses absolute power.

Nazis: Nazi Germany is the name for Germany between 1933-1945, when Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled the country through a dictatorship.

The Allies: The countries that together opposed the Axis powers during WWII.

The Axis powers: The nations that fought against the Allies in WWII.

Antisemitism: prejudice or discrimination against Jews.

Swastika: The symbol of the Nazis.

Star of David: A symbol of Jewish identity and Judaism.

Evacuee: A person who is evacuated from (leaves) a place of danger.

Propaganda: A way of spreading ideas and influencing people.

Morale: The confidence of a group of people.

Turning point: A moment in time when a decision made affects the outcome of a whole course of events.

Neville Chamberlain:

Britain's Prime Minister until 1940.

Winston Churchill:

Britain's Prime Minister from 1940.

Charles De Gaulle:

France's President.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt:

President of the USA.

Joseph Stalin:

Dictator of The Soviet Union.

Adolf Hitler:

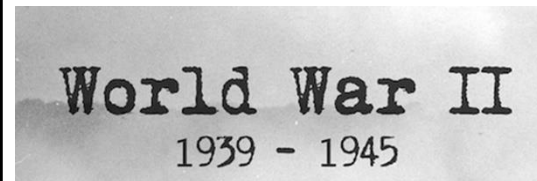
Germany's Führer.

Benito Mussolini:

Italy's leader.

Hideki Tojo:

Japan's Prime Minister.



World War Two began on 3rd September 1939 and ended on 2nd September 1945.