

Key Concept Questions
How and why did WWII begin?
What was life like in Britain during WWII?
How did women play their part during the war?
What happened at Dunkirk?
How significant was the Blitz?
Why was propaganda so powerful?
How did Hitler rise to power?
Winston Churchill – how great was he?
How do different sources about the events of WWII differ? Why do you think that is?
How did the D-Day Landings help Britain to win the war?
What role did Oxford play in WW2?
How did WWII shape the modern world today?

Best of British
World War Two
Golden Eagles KCV
History Year C



Key Vocabulary	
Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland. Later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
evacuation	Taking people from a dangerous place to a safer one.
rationing	Only allowing people to have a certain amount of something.
invasion	To try and take over a place by force.
Treaty of Versailles	Peace Treaty drawn up at the end of WWI
propaganda	An organised spreading and promoting predominately political ideas.
dictatorship	A dictatorship is a form of government where absolute power is held by a single person or small group of people.
Primary source	A document, first-hand account, or other source that constitutes direct evidence of an object of study
Secondary source	A book, article, or other source that provides information about an object of study but does not constitute direct, first-hand evidence.
genocide	Genocide is the planned and organized killing of a group of people because of their race, religion, ethnicity or nationality.
Anti-Semitism	Prejudiced and discriminatory thoughts and behaviour towards people of the Jewish faith.

Key Knowledge
World War II was between 1939-1945. It began on the 3rd September 1939 and ended on 2nd September 1945. Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany and formed the National Socialist Party (Nazi party), he believed the German race was superior and should rule all of Europe.
Britain declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland on 1st September 1939, breaking the Munich agreement (1938) which stated that they would not invade any other land.
The second World War was fought between two groups of nations. The Axis Powers were led by Germany, Italy and Japan. The Allies included Britain, the Soviet Union (Russia), France and later, the USA.
At the start of World War II, the Allies were the United Kingdom, France and Poland. These nations had made a pact to stand together against Hitler and the Axis Powers. The Allies were soon joined by the British Commonwealth (South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) and then the Soviet Union, the United States of America and China. Other Allies included British India, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia. In 1942, the Allies were officially named as the United Nations. The Axis Powers were Germany, Japan and Italy, who made a pact to stand together in opposition to the Allies.
Neville Chamberlain was the British prime minister at the time and he announced to Britain that they were at war with Germany on 3rd September, 1939. Adolf Hitler was the Führer Leader of Nazi Germany.
During World War II, many people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. Mostly children were evacuated but other evacuees included mothers with very young children, pregnant women, disabled people, teachers and helpers to look after the children.
Many countries called on women to help with the war effort and to take on jobs which men usually completed. Women started to work in factories, drove buses and fire engines. It changed the way people viewed women in the workplace forever.
A huge rescue, Operation 'Dynamo', was organised by the Royal Navy to get the troops off the beaches and back to Britain. 338,000 troops were rescued from Dunkirk. The successful evacuation was a great boost to civilian morale and created the 'Dunkirk spirit' which helped Britain to fight on in the summer of 1940.
The Blitz - On the 7th September, 1940 the German air force changed its strategy of bombing the British air force (Battle of Britain) and began to concentrate on bombing London. Nearly 2,000 people were killed or wounded in London's first night of the Blitz. For eight months German airplanes dropped bombs on London and other cities, including Birmingham, Coventry, Sheffield, Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton, Portsmouth, and Manchester. These were all places where factories and other important industries were based. The attack was Adolf Hitler's attempt at forcing the country to surrender.
The Allies and the Axis used propaganda to shape public opinion. The Nazis wanted Germans to support the Nazi dictatorship and believe in Nazi ideas. They tried to control forms of communication through censorship and propaganda.

History and Geography Skills
Place current study on timeline in relation to other studies and use relevant dates and terms.
Find out about beliefs, behaviour and characteristics of people, recognizing that not everyone shares the same views and feelings. Compare beliefs and behaviour with another time studied.
Write another explanation of a past event in terms of cause and effect.
Link sources and work out how conclusions were arrived at.
Consider ways of checking the accuracy of interpretations- fact or fiction and opinion.
Recognise primary and secondary sources. Use a range of sources to find out about an aspect of a time past.
Compare the invasion already learnt about (Romans) what is similar and different?
Use 6 figure grid references to identify countries and cities in the world involved in World War 2.
Study photographs, aerial photographs and maps of Freeland and Oxford pre war, post war and present day.
Study population numbers throughout the course of WWII and reflect on the reasons for changes.
Study pictures of land use during these three periods. Draw conclusions and develop informed reasons for the changes.
Study one key building in the locality during the three periods (e.g. hospital) and reflect on the changes.

Key Knowledge

Adolf Hitler's failed attempt at joining Vienna's academy of Art in 1907 saw him left with no job, living in a men's hostel and selling postcards to make money. It was during this time of poverty and hardship that Hitler became more and more interested in politics, attending political meetings and reading lots of political literature. When the First World War began in July 1914, Hitler joined the German army.

After WW1, Hitler was given a position in the Intelligence/Propaganda section of the army, where he was given political training. In 1920, Hitler was discharged from the army and, with his newfound free time, he took the lead of publicity and propaganda for the German Worker's Party. He changed the party's name to the National Socialist German Workers Party, (Nazi for short). In 1921, Hitler became the leader of the Nazi party.

In October 1933, Hitler withdrew from the League of Nations, which was an international diplomatic group created after World War I as a way to solve disputes between countries before they erupted into another war. Following this withdrawal, Hitler trebled the size of the German Army, blatantly ignoring the arms restrictions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles.

Winston Churchill was born in Oxfordshire in 1874 at his family's home Blenheim Palace. Winston Churchill was Prime Minister for two separate terms. Churchill's first stretch as Prime Minister was from 1940 to 1945, during which time he played an integral part in defeating enemy forces in World War II. Winston Churchill was re-elected Prime Minister from 1951 to 1955.

In 1933 the Nazi Party took control of the country of Germany. The Nazis hated Jewish people and tried to make life hard for them. During WW2, they decided to kill as many Jews as possible which became known as the Holocaust. It took the lives of about 6 million Jewish men, women, and children.

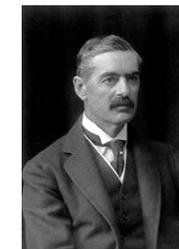
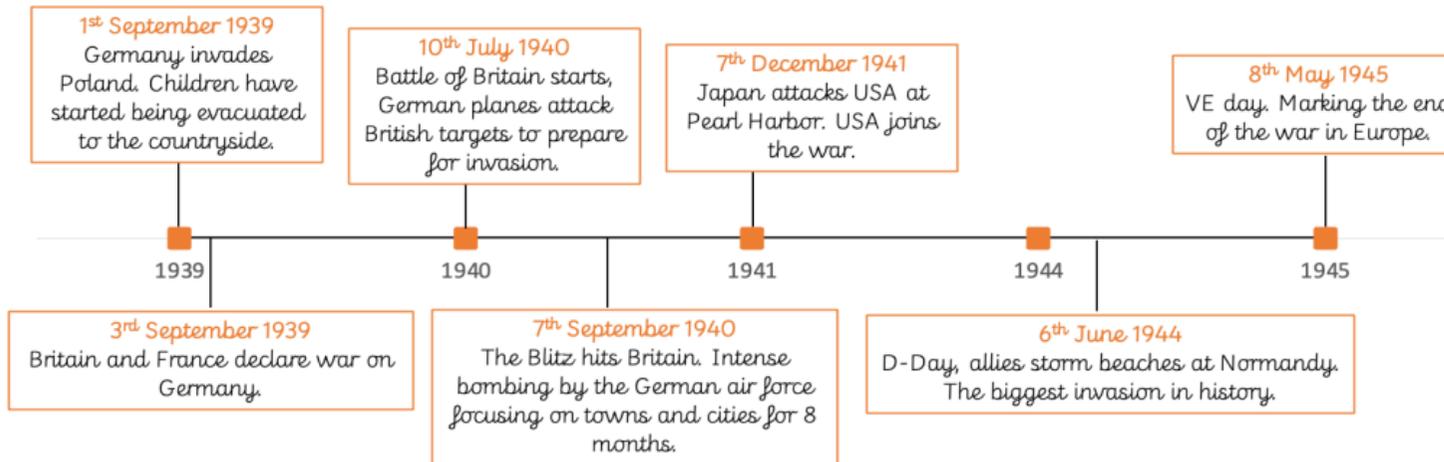
The Frank family were Germans of Jewish heritage. In 1934, the Frank family decided it was safer for them to leave Germany and move to Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Otto Frank had a secret annexe behind his office. Anne and her family hid away from the Nazis for two years. Anne received a red diary for her thirteenth birthday and she began to write in it every day.

D-Day was the largest seaborne invasion in history. On 6th June 1944, Around 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops landed on the beaches of Normandy (France) to attack and gain victory over German forces. This famous battle is sometimes called D-Day or the Invasion of Normandy. D-Day was a significant victory as it allowed for Allied forces to regain control on the Western Front, changing the course of the war. Although more battles needed to be fought, liberating France marked the beginning of the end of World War II.

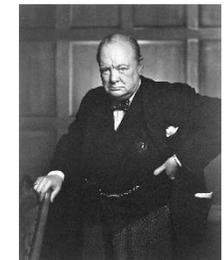
Oxford had excellent road and rail connections to the big cities of London, Birmingham and Bristol. Because of these special conditions, the War Government decided to make use of Oxford in many significant ways. The Cowley car factories (Morris Motors, Pressed Steel and Radiators) all turned to the production of armaments including tanks and fighter planes. Many government departments moved into Oxford University buildings. The four women's colleges had modern buildings which were suitable for medical purposes, so in St Hugh's, a specialist hospital was set up for soldiers with serious head wounds. Blenheim Palace was taken over by the Security Service, now known as MI5. This crucial department also needed many women as secretaries and clerks. The city centre of Oxford escaped being bombed altogether.

Many civilians died because of massacres, mass-bombings, disease and starvation during WWII.

The aftermath of WWII was the beginning of a new era for all countries involved, defined by the decline of all European colonial empires and simultaneous rise of two superpowers: the Soviet Union (USSR) and the United States (US).



Neville Chamberlain



Winston Churchill



Adolf Hitler