

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?
How significant was the Blitz?
Why was propaganda so powerful?
How do different sources about the events of WWII differ? Why do you think that is?
What happened at Dunkirk and how did Churchill use the events to influence public opinion?
What happened during the Battle of Britain?
How did the D-Day Landings help Britain to win the war?
How did Oxford play its part in WW2?
How did the end of WW2 change the world and the attitude to war?

Best of British
World War Two
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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.
propaganda	An organised spreading and promoting of predominately political ideas.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.
surrender	To surrender is to give up control of something to someone else.
dictatorship	A dictatorship is a form of government where absolute power is held by a single person or small group of people.
liberate	To liberate a place or the people in it means to free them from the political or military control of another country, area, or group of people.
troops	Soldiers or armed forces.

Key Knowledge
World War II 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.
Britain had to adapt to life during the war and had to take difficult measures to keep themselves safe. This included rationing food and clothing, practicing blackouts to keep safe from bombs and evacuating children to areas less likely to be attacked.
The war disrupted the education of many children and over 2,000 school buildings were requisitioned for war use. One in five schools was damaged by bombing, and air raids frequently stopped lessons for hours, leading to a decline in attendance. Although many schools were evacuated during the war, others chose to stay open and 'make the best of it', converting cellars and basements, into makeshift classrooms. Teachers, books, paper and equipment were all in short supply.
During the war, many children between the ages of 14 and 17 were in full-time employment. They worked in agriculture, in offices and the major industries such as engineering, aircraft production, shipbuilding and vehicle manufacture.
From 1941 all those aged between 16 and 18 were required to register for some form of national service, even if they had a full-time job. Boys received their call-up papers for the armed forces when they turned 18. Younger children were expected to do their bit by salvaging scrap metal, paper, glass and waste food for recycling. They also raised money for munitions, knitted 'comforts' for the troops, and were encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' in gardens and allotments.
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. Queen Elizabeth II served in the British military in the World War II - At the age of 19, Princess Elizabeth joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). After joining, she trained as a driver and mechanic with the rank of Second Subaltern. Five months later she was promoted to Junior Commander, which was the equivalent of Captain.

History and Geography Skills
Use dates and terms related to the period studied and the passing of time. Place events from period studied on a timeline.
Compare life in early and late 'times' studied. Compare an aspect of life with the same aspect from another period.
Offer some reasons for different versions of events.
Use a range of sources to find out about a period. Distinguish between different sources- compare different versions of the same story.
Use the library and internet for research. Begin to evaluate the usefulness of different sources and ask a variety of questions.
Compare the invasion already learnt about (Romans) what is similar and different?
Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping (Google Earth) to locate the countries involved in WW2 and the continents they are in. Locate and name the main cities around Oxford.
Compare rural/urban areas in the UK. Types of settlement in Britain, villages, town and cities.
Study how land in the local area was used during the historical periods studied. Look at land use in the same area today and consider how and why this has changed.
Use atlases/maps to describe and locate places using 4 figure grid references.

Key Knowledge

In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as dogfights. Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7th September 1940 (the start of the Blitz). On 15th September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is commemorated every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.

The Blitz - London was bombed for 77 nights in a row for 1 night. In the Summer of 1941 about 43,000 people had been killed and over 2 million were homeless. Rather than move away from the danger, the King and Queen decided to remain at Buckingham Palace in solidarity with those living through the Blitz.

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.

Propaganda is a way of spreading ideas and influencing people. Both 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.

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 Battle of Britain was when Germany bombed Great Britain in order to try and destroy their air force and prepare for invasion. It started on July 10th, 1940 and lasted many months as the Germans continued to bomb Britain.

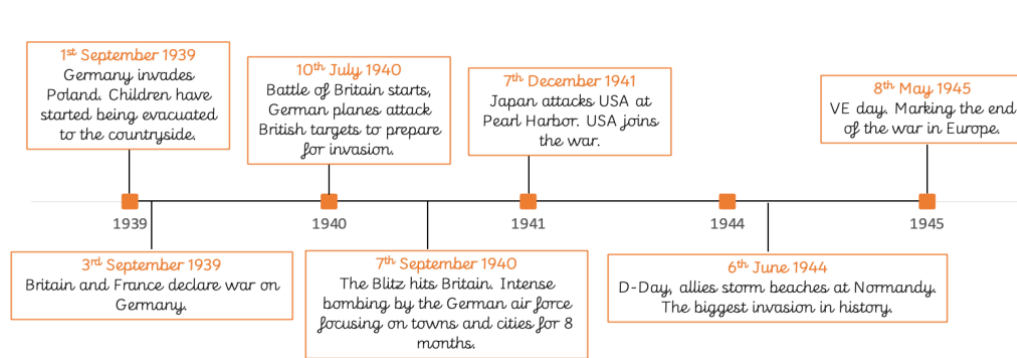
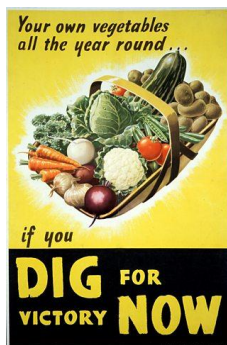
D-Day was the largest seaborne invasion in history. On 6th June 1944, Around 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops landed on the beaches of Normandy (France) to attack and gain victory over German forces. This famous battle is sometimes called D-Day or the Invasion of Normandy. D-Day was a significant 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.

Winston Churchill was born in Oxfordshire in 1874 at his family's home Blenheim Palace.

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