

Key Concept Questions
How and why did WWII begin?
What was life like in Britain during WWII? What precautions were put in place to keep people safe?
What was life like for troops during the war?
How did women play their part during the war?
What impact did the war have on children?
What did the Royal Family do during WWII?
How did Oxford change during WWII?
What happened during the Battle of Britain?
How significant was the Blitz?
How did WWII change Britain?

**Best of British**  
**World War Two**  
**Red Kites 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.
home front	Doing things at home to support the war was called 'fighting on the home front'.
Nazi party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
surrender	To surrender is to give up control of something to someone else.
troops	Soldiers or armed forces.
air raid	a bombing attack where explosives are dropped from aircraft onto the ground.
Anderson shelter	A commonly used home shelter built in a garden and equipped with beds as a refuge from air raids.
commemorate	To remember and honour something.

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.
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.
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.
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. In October 1940, 14-year-old Princess Elizabeth broadcast a message to evacuees on the radio programme Children's Hour, urging them to have courage.
Everyone in Britain was given a gas mask in a cardboard box, to protect them from gas bombs, which could be dropped during air raids. Anderson shelters were half buried in the ground with earth heaped on top to protect them from bomb blasts. By the autumn of 1940 deeper shelters were used such as caves and the London Underground. On the busiest night in 1940, 177,000 people slept on platforms. Many bought sandwiches, thermos flasks, pillows and blankets.
For most soldiers, life was very difficult. They had rationed food, but rations did not always get through to them. If they weren't at an army base, they lived in tents or in holes dug in the ground. They often had no access to heating, hot water or other comforts.
The soldiers carried much of their kit around with them. They were supplied with clothes, boots, weapons and a personal kit. Letters from friends and family kept soldiers in touch with the life that they had left behind and many soldiers sung to keep up morale.
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 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 - the equivalent of Captain.
Although national sports events were suspended during the war, there was plenty of entertainment. The radio was very popular, and people also went to the cinema or dance halls. Children played outside or with board games, cards or handmade toys.
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.

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.
Find out about everyday lives of people in the period being studied and compare with our lives today.
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.
Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping (Google Earth) to locate the countries involved in WW2 and the continents they are in.
Name and locate countries, capitals and seas of UK (recap)
Study how human Geography has changed over time.
Use the compass points N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW to direct and locate using a compass.
Locate and name the main cities around Oxford. Types of settlement in Britain, villages, town and cities.
Identify local features on a map and begin to experiment with four figure grid references, using them to locate and describe local features.

## Key Knowledge

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.

British Prime Minister 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.

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.

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 - 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 Blitz - London was bombed for 77 nights in a row bar 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.

By the end of WWII, the country was exhausted and devastated. Bombs had destroyed many British cities, and there were major shortages of goods and labour for the rebuilding of the country.

In Britain the most famous change was the creation of the National Health Service (NHS) which began its work on 5 July 1948.

