



Key Concepts/Features

World War Two was a global conflict that lasted six years (from 1939 to 1945). It was a battle between two groups of countries following the instability in Europe after World War I. The declaration brought about huge social, economic and political changes in the UK and further afield. Across all nationalities, approximately 90 million people lost their lives during the Second World War. The Cold War began after World War II. It was a state of political and military tension between powers in the Western Bloc (the United States) and powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union). The term "cold" is used because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two sides.

Key Vocabulary

allies	The countries which fought on the British side including: USA, Great Britain, France, USSR (1941-1945).
arms race	A competition between the USA and the USSR to build the strongest weapons.
axis	Countries which fought on the German side including: Italy, Germany, Japan, USSR (1939-1941).
blackout	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes.
blitz	German air raids, from a German word 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'.
capitalism	In a capitalist country, citizens, not governments, own and run companies.
communism	In a communist country, the government own companies and share the wealth equally amongst everyone.
concentration camp	Prison camp where Jews and other prisoners were kept (such as Auschwitz).
evacuation	Organised movement of 'evacuees' (children and vulnerable people) from towns and cities to safe zones.
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other people by the Nazis.
Nazi Party	Member of the 'The National Socialist German Workers' Party' which came to power in 1933.
rationing	Controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol and scarce resources.
reconciliation	The restoration of friendly relations.
space race	A rivalry between the USA and the USSR to be superior in space exploration.

Key People

Winston Churchill UK Prime Minister 1940-1945 and 1951-1955.	
Joseph Stalin Leader of the Soviet Union from 1924-1953.	
Adolf Hitler Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany from 1933 until his death in 1945. Aka 'Führer'.	
Anne Frank Jewish diarist who hid from the Nazis. Victim of the Holocaust .	

Timeline

9th Nov 1938	Kristallnacht. Jews blamed for the German defeat in WWI so their shops and houses are destroyed.
1st Sept 1939	Germany, led by Hitler, invades Poland. WWII begins. Britain and France declare war on Germany two days later.
7th Jan 1940	Rationing of food begins in Britain.
June 1940	Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders. Battle of Britain begins.
7th Dec 1941	The Japanese attack the US Navy in Pearl Harbour.
6th June 1944	D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy.
8th May 1945	Following Germany's surrender on 7 th May, Europe celebrates VE Day.
6th August 1945	The USA drop atomic bombs on Japanese cities: Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
2nd Sept 1945	Japan surrenders. End of WWII.
9th Nov 1989	The Fall of the Berlin Wall.
26th Dec 1991	The dissolution of the Soviet Union and reconciliation between countries.

Key Locations

<p>Germany</p> <p>Capital: Berlin</p> <p>Official Language: German</p> <p>Currency: Euro</p> <p>After WWII, Germany divided into two countries: West Germany and East Germany. Berlin was divided by the Berlin Wall, which fell in 1989.</p> 	<p>The Russian Federation</p> <p>Capital: Moscow</p> <p>Official Language: Russian</p> <p>Currency: Rouble.</p> <p>From 1922 to 1991, Russia was named the <i>Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) aka the Soviet Union</i>. It is the largest country in the world.</p> 	<p>The United States of America (USA)</p> <p>Capital: Washington DC</p> <p>Official Language: English</p> <p>Money: Dollar</p> <p>The third largest country in the world.</p> 
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