

# WWII Knowledge Organiser Y6 Autumn Term 1

How did WWII begin? World War 2 was a battle between two groups of countries– the “Allies” and the “Axis“. The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States. The major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy and Japan. Before World War 2 began, Germany was ruled by a man named Adolf Hitler. Together with the Nazi Party, he wanted Germany to rule Europe. At the time, Germany was a very poor country and he wanted to gain more land and power. On 1st September 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun.

<p>1939 1<sup>st</sup> September</p>  <p>Germany invades Poland.</p>	<p>1939 3<sup>rd</sup> September</p>  <p>Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declares war on Germany.</p>	<p>1940 10<sup>th</sup> May</p>  <p>Winston Churchill becomes the new Prime Minister.</p>	<p>1940 10<sup>th</sup> July</p>  <p>The Battle of Britain begins.</p>	<p>1940 7<sup>th</sup> September</p>  <p>The London Blitz begins.</p>	<p>1941 11<sup>th</sup> December</p>  <p>The United States declares war on Germany and Italy.</p>	<p>1945 30<sup>th</sup> April</p>  <p>Hitler commits suicide.</p>	<p>1945 7<sup>th</sup> May</p>  <p>Germany surrenders to the West.</p>	<p>1945 8<sup>th</sup> May</p>  <p>Britain celebrates VE Day.</p>
---	---	--	---	---	--	--	---	--

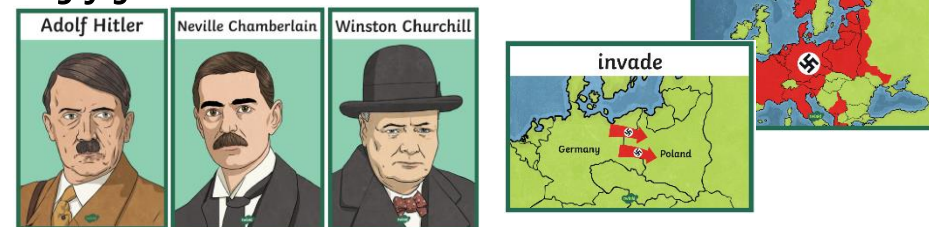
## Key learning

How did WWII begin?  
 Who were the Axis and Allies?  
 Who were the key characters of WWII?  
 How did Jews suffer during WWII?  
 What was life like for children in Britain during WWII? Evacuation, Rationing, Blitz, Battle of Britain & VE Day.

## Fascinating facts

- World War II lasted for six years. It began on the 3rd September 1939 and ended on 2nd September 1945.
- Over fifty million people were killed during World War II, which affected almost every country in the world.
- The events of World War II have shaped the world we know today and will continue to impact on our future for a long time to come.
- The Nazis killed approximately 12 million people, of which 6 million were Jews.

## Key figures



## VOCABULARY

<b>Allies</b>	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
<b>Axis</b>	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later
<b>Nazi party</b>	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler. 
<b>The Holocaust</b>	The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party
<b>Evacuation</b>	During World War II, many children were evacuated from the cities to the countryside where it was believed they would be safer from bombing.
<b>Rationing</b>	At the start of the war, Britain began to ration food. To ration something means to allow each person to only have a fixed amount of it.
<b>Battle of Britain</b>	The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air. It was made up of lots of air battles that lasted from 10 July to 31 October 1940.
<b>VE Day</b>	Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) took place on May 8 <sup>th</sup> 1945. It was a public holiday and day of celebration to mark the defeat of Germany by the Allied forces in World War II.