

Year 6: Let's Learn About... Britain at War (World War 2)

Spring 2



A map showing Europe in 1938

World War 2

The Second World War was an international conflict that involved countries from Europe, the United States of America, the Middle East, Asia, and many other world regions. Germany invaded Poland **1st September 1939**, triggering Britain and France to declare war on Germany. Over the next six years, many countries fought each other all around the world. By the time the war ended in Europe on **8th May 1945**, an estimated 70 million people died due to the conflict. Many different factors caused the Second World War, including militarism, appeasement, the effect of The Treaty of Versailles on Germany, the rise of Nazi Germany and their invasion of other European countries.

Key Historical Vocabulary

appeasement	This was the policy of many countries when Hitler first started to take over Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia. They gave into Hitler's demands in order to avoid going to war.	Luftwaffe	The name for the German air force.
D-Day	The day that US and British forces attacked the German forces on the beaches in France. This was a turning point in the war.	Nazi	The Nazi party was a political party led by Adolph Hitler.

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Key Dates			RAF	The air force of Great Britain. It stands for the Royal Air Force
1 st September 1939	A dictator of Germany with Hitler and Italy Mussolini were fascist governments.	Germany invades Poland		
3 rd September 1939		Britain and France declare war on Germany		
September-May 1940		The 'Phoney' War		
10 th July-31 st October 1940		The Battle of Britain		
8 th May 1945		Victory in Europe (VE Day)		
15 th August 1945		Victory in Japan (VJ Day)		



A map showing Europe in 1941. The red countries have been invaded by Nazi Germany.

London during The Blitz

After a long period of no real action, Germany began their campaign of 'Blitzkrieg' or Lightning War. This meant the quick bombing and invasion of enemy countries to defeat them quickly. To invade The British Isles, Germany decided to bomb key targets in Britain, including London. The docks in East London were targeted by planes dropping bombs trying to destroy ships containing food, weapons and supplies all with the aim of making Britain scared and ill-equipped to continue fighting. 43,000 people died during these bombing raids of Britain, but the Blitz did not have the effect Germany wanted: Britain continued to fight in the war. Germany never invaded Britain.

