

Grange Park Primary School Year 6 Spring 1 History

Your Country Needs You!: World War 2 1939-1945 AD

Timeline (AD)	
1918	World War 1 ends. Germany defeated.
1933	Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.
Sept 1939	Germany Invades Poland. Britain Declares War.
Jan 1940	Rationing begins in Britain.
May 1940	Winston Churchill is elected British Prime Minister.
July 1940	'The Battle of Britain' begins
Sept 1940	'The Blitz' begins in London.
Oct 1940	Britain wins 'The Battle of Britain'.
30 April 1945	Adolf Hitler dies.
8 May 1945	Germany surrenders (VE day).

Key People/Events	
Adolf Hitler	Leader of Germany during World War 2.
Neville Chamberlain	Prime Minister of Britain when the war began in 1939.
Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of Britain from 1940 to 1945 when the war ended.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	The president of the United States during World War 2.
Benito Mussolini	Leader of Italy during the war. Formed an alliance with Hitler.
The Battle of Britain	A battle fought between the German air force (Luftwaffe) and the British air force (RAF).
The Blitz	The heavy and frequent bombing of London (and other major cities) by the German air force.

Key Vocabulary	
troops	A group of soldiers or the armed forces.
Allies	The countries that together were opposed (against) Germany in World War 2.
Axis	The countries that together supported Germany in World War 2.
appeasement	The act of attempting to avoid war with other countries through peaceful discussions.
declaration	To announce in a formal way.
propaganda	A way to spread false ideas and information with people.
ration	A fixed (small) portion of something.
evacuation	The process of leading people out of an area or place.
air raid	An attack where bombs are from an aircraft on to a target on the ground.
conscription	A law that forces people to join the army if there are not enough volunteers.



What were the causes of World War 2?

The Treaty of Versailles ended World War I between Germany and the Allied Powers. Because Germany had lost the war, the treaty was very harsh against Germany. Germany was forced to 'accept the responsibility' of the war damages suffered by the Allies.

In Germany, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party rose to power. The Germans were desperate for someone to turn around their economy and restore their national pride. Hitler offered them hope.

Who were the Allies and Axis in World War 2?

The main **allied** countries were Great Britain, the United States, France and the Soviet Union (Russia).

The main **axis** countries that were led by Adolf Hitler were Germany, Italy and Japan.

