Knowledge Organiser

Topic:	World War II	Year:	6	Term:	Spring

Key Facts

What was World War II?

World War II was the second world war of the 20th Century.

Who fought in World War II?

World War II was fought between two sides. The Allied and the Axis powers.

When did it start and when did it end?

It started on September 1st, 1939 but ended in two parts. WWII ended in Europe on May 8th, 1945 and in Japan on September 2nd, 1945. It had lasted 6 years.

Why did World War II start?

Adolf Hitler - the leader of Germany - was angry that Germany had little money after World War I and wanted more space for the German people to live.

He marched his army into Poland and ignored requests to leave.

Significant Individuals

Sir Winston Churchill	Adolf Hitler

Prime Minister of the UK **1940 - 1945 (and 1951 - 1955)**	**Dictator of Germany** **1933 - 1945**

The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the mass extermination of Jewish people by Nazi soldiers of the German army.

Over 6 million Jewish people were murdered in one of the biggest genocides in human history.

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Timeline

Date	Significant Event
January 30th, 1933	Adolf Hitler becomes leader of Germany.
September 1st, 1939	Germany invades Poland and ignores calls to withdraw.
September 3rd, 1939	The UK and France declare war on Germany.
10th July, 1940	The Battle of Britain begins.
June 6th, 1944	Invasion of France by Allied forces pushes German defences back.
May 8th, 1945	Germany surrenders signalling Victory in Europe.
August 6th and 9th 1945	The US drops atomic bombs on Japan.
September 2nd, 1945	Japan surrenders: End of World War II

Side	Countries
Allied	The UK, France, United States, Soviet Union(now Russia) and others.
Axis	Germany, Italy, Japan and others

Vocabulary

Word	Explanation
air raid shelter	A building to protect people from bombs dropped by planes
The Blackout	System ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes
Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on the UK, mainly cities including Liverpool, London and Birmingham
democracy	A system where the public vote for the people they want to form their government and run their country
dictator	A person who rules over a country by themselves, usually by fear and control
Enigma	A machine used by Nazi Germany to send coded messages
Fascism	The total support of a dictator, rather than a democratic system, usually because of hate of another group
genocide	Mass murder of a group of people, usually because of their religion, nationality, or race
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis
Nazi	The political party led by Adolf Hitler who disliked Jewish people