

WW2 Knowledge Organiser

Friend or Foe: Huyton



Main Participating Countries			
ALLIED POWERS		AXIS POWERS	
Country	Date Joined	Country	Date Joined
FRANCE	3 rd Sep, 1939	GERMANY	1 st Sep, 1939
UK	3 rd Sep, 1939	ITALY	11 th Jun, 1940
SOVIET UNION	22 nd Jun, 1941	BULGARIA	1 st Mar, 1941
USA	8 th Dec, 1941	JAPAN	7 th Dec, 1941

Key Vocabulary	
Axis Powers	Germany, Japan, Italy and other countries that were allies in World War 2
Allies	Countries (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA) who joined forces to fight the Axis Powers
Concentration camp	Prison where Jews and other prisoners were kept by the Nazis.
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other people by the Nazis
Prisoners of war	Soldiers captured by the other side.
Propoganda	Controlling news media (such as radio) to show your side in the best way.
Resistance	Fighting back in an occupied country, for example by refusing to help the enemy.
War crime	Mass murder or cruel treatment of people during a war
Internment Camp	the imprisonment of people, commonly in large groups, without charges or intent to file charges, and thus no trial.
Evacuee	a person evacuated from a place of danger.

Major Events			
Event	Description	Date/s	Fact
WWII Begins	On 1 st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave notice for the Germans to withdraw. When they did not, Britain and France declared war on 3 rd September.	1 st -3 rd September 1939	Hitler claimed to attack Poland to give the German people 'Lebensraum' – living space
Evacuation of Children	People expected cities to be bombed, as enemy planes tried to hit targets. This put city children in danger, and so they were evacuated to the countryside.	September 1939 onwards	About 800,000 children left their homes throughout the war.
The Holocaust	The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany before and during WWII. It involved the murder of 6 million Jews, and millions of others. Many perished in concentration camps.	1933-1945	During the Holocaust, about two thirds of the Jews in Europe were killed.
Battle of Britain	In the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended UK against attacks by Nazi Germany's air force: Luftwaffe.	10 th July – 31 st October 1940	This was seen by many as Germany's first major defeat in the war.
Attack on Pearl Harbor	This was a surprise military attack by Japan on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor. It led to the US joining the Allies in the war.	7 th December 1941	188 aircraft were destroyed and 2,403 Americans were killed.
D-Day Landings	The Normandy Landings, also known as D-Day, were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim back Europe. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history.	6 th June 1944	Between 14,000 and 19,000 men died in the D-Day landings
Hitler's Suicide	With the Germans facing defeat, Hitler married his long-time love Eva Braun on 29 th April. The next day, they committed suicide.	30 th April 1945	There is debate as to how they killed themselves.
Germany Surrenders	Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, bringing to an end the European fighting in World War II.	7 th May 1945	VE (Victory in Europe) Day is still celebrated on 8 th May.
America drops the atomic bombs	Japan refused to surrender. The US considered an invasion, but have lost around 500,000 men. Instead, they dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima (6 th Aug) and Nagasaki (9 th Aug).	6 th -9 th August 1945	It is thought that 135,000 people died in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.



Adolf Hitler - (1889-1945) Leader of the Nazi party, Chancellor of Germany from 1933-1945, and the Fuhrer of Germany from 1934-1945. Hitler's Germany invaded Poland in September 1939 to start the war, and it was he who initiated the Holocaust. He is therefore significantly responsible for the deaths of millions.

Sir Winston Churchill - (1874-1965) Prime Minister between 1940 and 1945 (most of World War II) and again from 1951 to 1955. He took over in May 1940, He did his best to rally the nation in defiance of Adolf Hitler, possessed excellent military knowledge and forged crucial alliances

