











History KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Topic: World War Two

YEAR 9P

HT4

Main Participating Countries

ALLIED POWERS			AXIS POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Death Toll	Country	Date Joined	Death Toll
FRANCE 	3 rd Sep, 1939	600,000 1.44% of population in 1939	GERMANY 	1 st Sep, 1939	approx. 7,200,000 8.5% of population in 1939
UK 	3 rd Sep, 1939	450,900 0.94% of population in 1939	ITALY 	11 th Jun, 1940	approx. 500,000 1.14% of population in 1939
SOVIET UNION 	22 nd Jun, 1941	approx. 24,000,000 13.7% of population in 1939	HUNGARY 	27 th Jun, 1941	464,000 5.08% of population in 1939
USA 	8 th Dec, 1941	419,400 0.32% of population in 1939	JAPAN 	7 th Dec, 1941	approx. 3,000,000 4.1% of population in 1939

Key People

Sir Winston Churchill – (1874-1965) was a British politician who served as the Prime Minister between 1940 and 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. He took over after a disastrous start to the war in which Nazi Germany conquered much of Europe. He did his best to rally the nation in defiance of Adolf Hitler, possessed excellent military knowledge and forged crucial alliances with both the USA and Russia.



Adolf Hitler – (1889-1945) was a German politician who was the 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 Sep 1939 to start the war, and he initiated the Holocaust. He is therefore significantly responsible for millions of deaths. He committed suicide on 30th Apr 1945, when the war was clearly lost.



Franklin Roosevelt – (1882-1945) was the 32nd President of the United States, from 1933-1945. Whilst the USA remained officially neutral at the start of war, Roosevelt offered financial support to the Allies. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941, he declared war on the Axis powers (Japan and Nazi Germany). The US greatly helped the Allies to win the war - He died months before it ended.



Benito Mussolini – (1883-1945) the leader of Italy's National Fascist Party. Italy entered the war on the side of Germany in 1940 but suffered some disastrous losses. In 1943, Mussolini was dismissed as leader and arrested, but was rescued by Hitler's paratroopers. He was later caught by Italian Communist partisans and executed by firing squad in 1945.














Joseph Stalin – (1878-1953) was the Communist leader of the USSR during WWII. His own policies became known as 'Stalinism.' He had signed a non-aggression pact with Germany in August 1939, but in June 1941, Hitler broke it and the Germans invaded. Although initially suffering heavy losses, the USSR's key victories in pushing the Germans back signalled a shift in the war in favour of the Allies.



Anne Frank – (1929-1945) was a German-born diarist. As a young Jewish girl, her family were forced into hiding, fleeing Germany for a secret attic in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She wrote a diary of her time there. After years in hiding, her family was betrayed and arrested, and taken to concentration camps. Anne died of Typhus in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The only survivor from her family was Otto, her father, who published her diaries after her death.



Event	Image	Description	Date
WWII Begins		On 1 st September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, using tactics known as 'Blitzkrieg' meaning lightning war. Britain and France (Poland's allies) gave a notice period for the Germans to withdraw their troops from Poland. When they did not, Britain and France declared war on 3 rd September. Britain initially responded with bombing raids over Germany.	1 st -3 rd September 1939
Evacuation of Children		People expected cities to be bombed, as enemy planes tried to hit targets, for example warehouses and factories. This would have put city children (in schools and houses close by) in grave danger, and so thousands were evacuated to the countryside.	September 1939 onwards
The Holocaust		The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Germany and its allies during WWII. It involved the systematic murder of 6 million Jews, and millions of 'undesirable' others (around 9-12 million in total). Many were gassed, starved, or died of disease in concentration camps.	1933-1945
Evacuation of Dunkirk		Large numbers of British, French, and Belgian troops were surrounded by German soldiers at the French coastal town of Dunkirk. Remarkably, 338,226 were saved by a fleet of 800 small boats. The event is also known as the 'Miracle of Dunkirk.'	26 th May – 4 th June 1940
Battle of Britain		In the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force (RAF) successfully defended UK against attacks by Nazi Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe. Germany had to cancel its planned land invasion.	10 th July – 31 st October 1940
Attack on Pearl Harbour		This was a surprise military attack by Japan on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbour. It led to the US joining the Allies in the war.	7 th December 1941
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. The operation began the liberation of north-western Europe from Nazi Germany.	6 th June 1944
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, reportedly by gunshot.	30 th April 1945
Germany Surrenders		The Allies had gradually forced the surrender of Axis troops across Europe in April and early May 1945. On 7 th May, Germany officially surrendered to the Allies, ending the European fighting.	7 th May 1945
America drops the atomic bombs		Japan refused to surrender and planned to fight on to the bitter end. The US considered an invasion but would 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
WWII Ends		The surrender of Japan was announced on August 15 th 1945. Japan formally signed for surrender on 2 nd September 1945, aboard the US Navy battleship USS Missouri. Allied civilians and military celebrated the end of war. The use of atomic bombs to force the surrender is still debated.	2 nd September 1945