

The Outbreak of War



The Outbreak of World War II



What do you already know about World War II?

Look at the information below.

Why is this information important? Discuss with your partner.

- September 1939 – September 1945
- Adolf Hitler – Leader of Germany
- German soldiers invaded Poland (1st September, 1939)
- Britain and France declared war on Germany (3rd September, 1939)



This information can help us to explain how World War II started.

The Outbreak of World War II



Use the information to help you write a short description of how World War II began on the **Outbreak of World War II Activity Sheet**.

(You may also add extra information of your own if you can.)

★ The Outbreak of World War II

Use the following information to help you complete the sentences to explain when and why World War II began.

- September 1939 - September 1945
- Adolf Hitler - Leader of Germany
- German soldiers invaded Poland (1st September)
- Britain and France declared war on Germany (3rd September)

World War II started in _____ and ended in _____.

Adolf Hitler was _____.

He wanted to _____.

On 1st September, 1939 _____.

Britain and France _____.

World War II began on _____.



History | KS2 | Year 6 | The Outbreak of War | Lesson 1

★ The Outbreak of World War II

Use the following information. Use the information to help you write a short passage to explain when and why World War II started. Include a short introduction and explanation of events.

- September 1939 - September 1945
- Adolf Hitler - Leader of Germany
- German soldiers invaded Poland (1st September)
- Britain and France declared war on Germany (3rd September)



History | KS2 | Year 6 | The Outbreak of War | Lesson 1



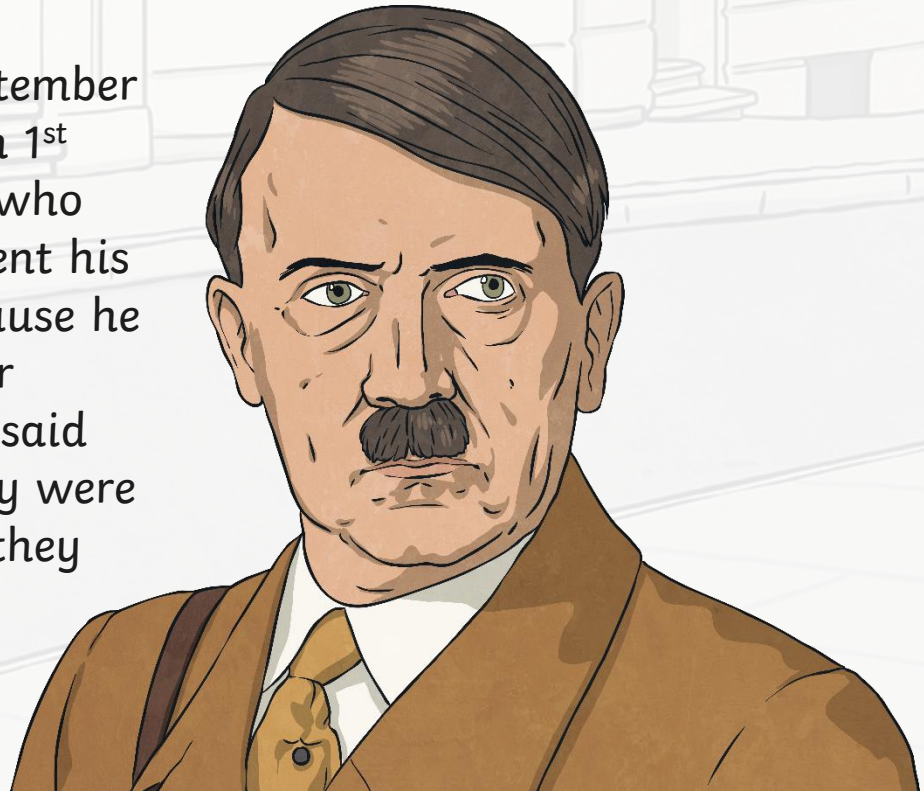
The Outbreak of World War II



How did you do?

Did you manage to include the key information?

World War II lasted from September 1939 until September 1945. On 1st September 1939, Adolf Hitler, who was the leader of Germany, sent his soldiers to invade Poland because he wanted to claim more land for Germany. Britain and France said they would help Poland if they were invaded, so on 3rd September they declared war on Germany.



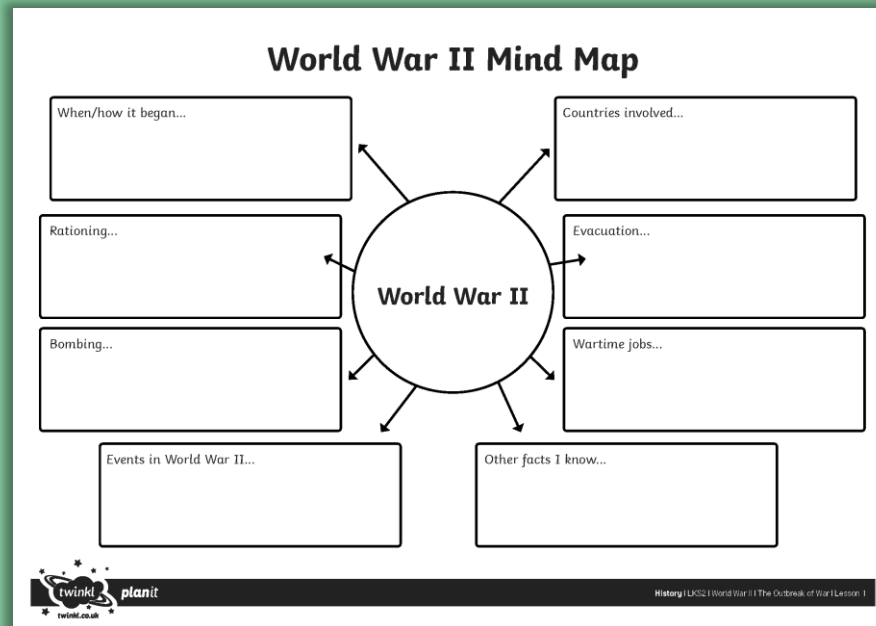
Mind Map



What have you learnt about World War II?

What would you like to find out more about?

Record your thoughts and questions in the different boxes on your **World War II Mind Map Activity Sheet**.



Key Events

You are going to learn about some important events from World War II and make a timeline.

Read the information about each event. Try to remember the date it happened and important facts about it. Use what you learn to help you complete the **World War II Key Events Timeline Activity Sheet**.

Early World War II Events Timeline

The cards form a timeline of events from World War II, but some of the information is missing. Complete the cards and place them on the timeline. Can you add any other events?

Event Cards:

- 6th to 9th August 1945: Atomic bombs dropped on Japan.
- 7th May 1945: Germany surrendered.
- 7th December 1941: The bombing of Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.
- 26th May 1940: Evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk.
- 10th June 1940: The French surrendered.
- 4th June 1940: The British evacuated from Dunkirk.
- 10th June 1940: The British evacuated from Dunkirk.
- 26th May 1940: Evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk.
- 2nd September 1945: The Japanese surrendered.

Timeline:

A horizontal timeline with arrows pointing to boxes for events.

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Key Events

Hitler's Troops Invade Poland

Germany invaded Poland on 1st September, 1939. Britain and France had promised to help Poland if Germany attacked them, so they declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939.

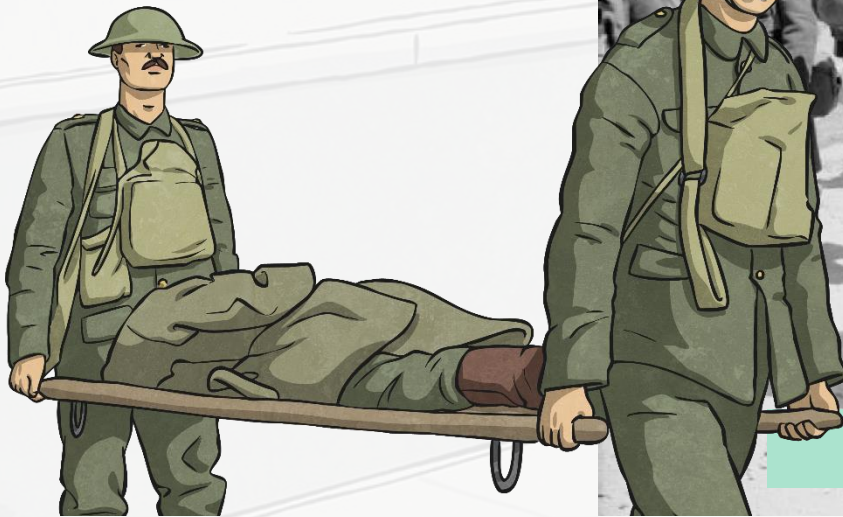


German tanks in Poland, September 1939

Key Events

The Battle of France

On 10th May 1940, Germany's troops blazed through France and other Western European countries using their blitzkrieg (lightning war) technique. Within six weeks, France, Belgium and the Netherlands were captured.



British soldiers in France, June 1940

Key Events

The Battle of Britain

On 10th July, 1940, British ships in the English Channel were bombed by the German Luftwaffe (air force). Heavy bombing of airfields, harbours, radar stations and aircraft factories began in August 1940. Britain's RAF (Royal Air Force) fought back hard.



British Spitfires in the Battle of Britain.

Key Events

The Blitz

On 7th September, 1940, the Luftwaffe began bombing London and other cities. The bombings came night after night and thousands of people lost their lives.

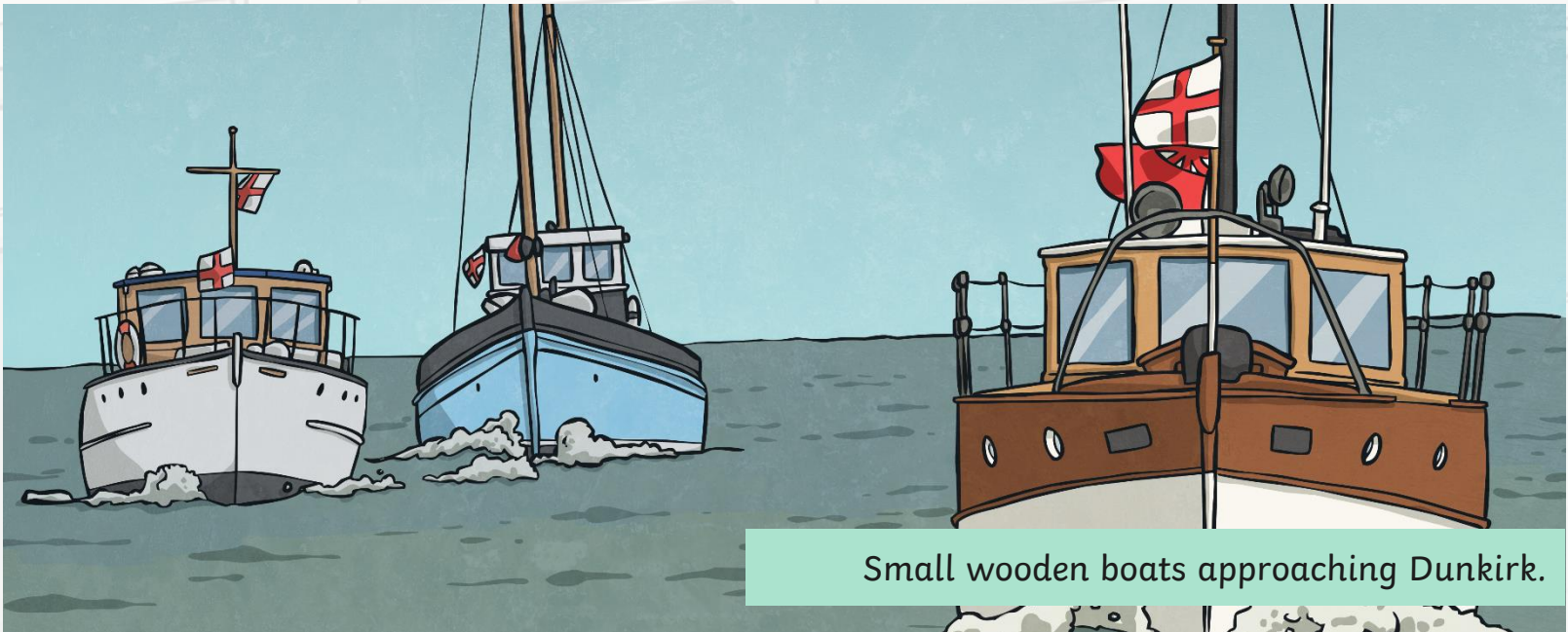


Bomb damage in London during the Blitz.

Key Events

Evacuation at Dunkirk

This event, code-named Operation Dynamo, began on 26th May 1940. Allied troops, who were being beaten by the Nazis in France, were forced to retreat to the beaches of Dunkirk. They were rescued by hundreds of small wooden boats and then transferred to larger ships to sail across the channel to Dover.

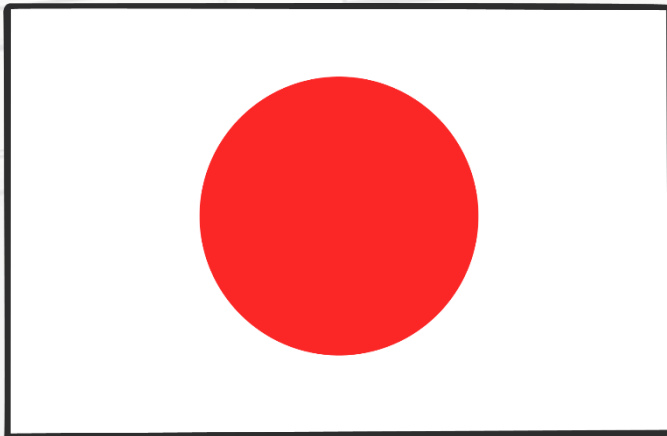


Small wooden boats approaching Dunkirk.

Key Events

Japan Bombs Pearl Harbour

On 7th December, 1941, Japan bombed a US naval base in Hawaii. Until this point, the US had opted to remain neutral (not on any side) in the war, but after this event, the US joined the Allies.



Pearl Harbour.

Key Events

D-Day: The Normandy Landings

D-Day refers to the allied attack on the beaches of Normandy, which took place on 6th June, 1944 and was code-named Operation Neptune. The Normandy landings were the first stage of Operation Overlord, which aimed to drive the Germans out of France.



British troops arriving.

Key Events

VE Day

VE Day stands for Victory in Europe day. Following the suicide of Hitler on 30th April, 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allies on 7th May, 1945. VE Day is celebrated on 8th May, each year.



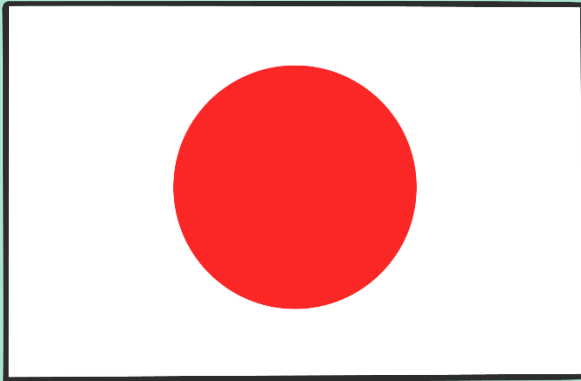
Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, waves to crowds in London

Key Events

US Drops Atomic Bombs on Japan

Although the war in Europe had come to an end, fighting continued in the Pacific. In an attempt to end the war as quickly as possible, the American President, Harry Truman, gave permission for the dropping of atomic bombs on two Japanese cities: Hiroshima on 6th August, and Nagasaki on 9th August, 1945.

The official end of the war was on 2nd September, 1945, when Japan formally surrendered.



Smoke from the Hiroshima bomb.

Allied and Axis Powers



At the start of World War II, the Allies were the United Kingdom, France and Poland. These nations had made a pact to stand together against Hitler and the Axis Powers.

The Allies were soon joined by the British Commonwealth (South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) and then the Soviet Union, the USA and China.

Other Allies included British India, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia. The Allies were officially named as the United Nations in 1942.

The Axis powers were Germany, Japan and Italy, who made a pact to stand together in opposition to the Allies.

Colour in your **World War II Colouring Map Activity Sheet** to show the main allied and axis powers.

