



Year 5 and 6 Knowledge Organiser - World War 2

Key vocab

Communism:	a political belief system
significant:	important
influences:	effects on what people say or do
decades:	periods of ten years
evacuated:	removed from a dangerous place
propaganda:	communication used to influence the opinions of others
amphibious:	(of a military operation) with forces landing from the sea
Blitz:	when a city (like London) was bombed heavily
atomic:	power that is produced by splitting atoms
Holocaust:	the deliberate mass murder of Jews and political prisoners by the Nazis
declaration:	official announcement
rationing:	limiting the amount of food, water or fuel

The Second World War was the most deadly conflict the world has ever seen. It brought into opposition the countries of the Allies (France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union) and the Axis powers (Germany, Italy and Japan). By the end of the conflict, approximately 50 million people had been killed, and the political and social organisation of the world was changed forever. The end of the war saw Communism growing in the east and a significant shift in power towards the United States in the west. The Second World War is one of the most significant events in history, and its influences are still felt in daily life today.



Sticky Knowledge

The Second World War was a truly global conflict. The Allies and Axis powers drew more than 30 countries into the conflict.

In the decades after the First World War, Europe was still under the threat of another great conflict. Hitler had come to power promising to rebuild the German army and was soon invading parts of Europe.

Britain and France agreed to help Poland if it was invaded, but that didn't stop Hitler. His army moved into Poland, and the Second World War had begun.

The conflict involved some of the most famous battles in history, including the Battle of Britain between the British and German airforces.

The Second World War also witnessed the use of a powerful new weapon, the atomic bomb, which the USA used on two cities in Japan.

Following the German army's successful invasion of Poland, they conquered France and the Low Countries (Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg) in less than two months.

Hitler then planned for an invasion of Great Britain which would have given him control over the whole of Western Europe.

Propaganda is a type of communication used to influence the opinions of people to support a cause or belief.

propaganda is most closely associated with the Second World War and its use by Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels as a weapon of war.

The Battle of Britain, which took place between July and September 1940, was between the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Luftwaffe.

The RAF won this battle at great cost, and Britain continued to be heavily bombed, particularly during the Blitz.

The Second World War saw the first use of a powerful and devastating weapon, the atomic bomb. Its use (by the USA in Japan) helped bring about the end of the war and showed the world just how powerful atomic weapons are.

The Second World War was the most destructive conflict the world has ever experienced.

In six years of fighting, over 50 million people died, including six million Jews in the Holocaust.

The United Nations (UN) is an international organisation that tries to resolve conflicts and create positive relationships between nations.

Created by 51 countries, at the end of the war in 1945, the UN is now made up of 193 nations.

In Britain, daily life changed completely as a result of the war. Rationing began in 1940 and didn't end until 1954.

Major towns and cities had to be rebuilt after the German bombing raids.

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