

Alverton School History Knowledge Organiser Years 5 and 6 - WW2 Home Front

What we already know:

By 1941, Britain and the Commonwealth were standing alone against Hitler. France had capitulated and America was still neutral. The BEF had been evacuated from France and the RAF had defeated the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain.

Key Vocabulary

Allies	Countries (inc. Britain, France, the Soviet Union and USA) who fought the Axis powers.
Axis Powers	Germany, Italy, Japan and others.
Blackout	Wartime ban on lights at night to reduce risk of enemy bombing.
Blitz	The period of intense German air-raids on Britain.
Concentration camps	Prisons where Jewish people and other prisoners were held by the Nazis.
Evacuation	Moving people from dangerous areas to safer ones in the countryside.
Fascism	A political system which allows no opposition.
Genocide	Deliberate action to destroy a group or groups of people.
Holocaust	Murder of 6 million Jews.
Invasion	When a country uses force to take over another country.
Propaganda	Information, often biased, to promote a political cause.
Rationing	Controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol, etc to make it last.
Treaty	An agreement between two or more countries to defend each others rights.

Super Six

Before the Second World War, women were expected to be 'housewives' or perhaps to do certain 'women's jobs', such as nursing or being a domestic servant or shop assistant. The war changed the world of work for women for ever. When men went to fight, women were called upon to fill their jobs, and this included many jobs that were previously thought of unsuitable for women.

The Home Guard were volunteers who defended the five thousand miles of Britain coastline in the event of an invasion by Germany. They were originally called the Local Defence Volunteers.

Many precautions were taken to protect civilians in their homes. As well as evacuating children, Britons used Anderson and Morrison Shelters; took shelter in places like Underground stations; followed the Blackout laws and were reminded to do all this by Wardens who patrolled the towns and cities after dark.

Throughout the war, propaganda posters were used to get across vital messages which included the importance of not talking about military operations, digging for victory, women's roles and joining up.

After the attack on Pearl Harbour, America became one of the Allies. Its huge reserves of cash, personnel and resources were invaluable. Over 1942 and 1943 many Americans trained in Great Britain (many in Cornwall) in preparation for the D-Day landings. On this day the Allies returned to mainland Europe and this marked the beginning of the end for Germany.

The end of the war was marked by huge rejoicing and even huge parties. VE and VJ Days (Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan) saw people singing dancing and coming together in the streets for the first time in 5 years of war.

1933
Hitler comes to power

1940
May
Germany invades Poland

1940
July
Battle of Britain

1941
Women take on men's jobs

1942
Anne Frank starts a diary

June 1944
Allies invade France on D-Day

27th January
Allies liberate Auschwitz

8th May
1945
VE Day

1939
Germany invades Poland. Britain declares war.

1940
June
Dunkirk evacuation

1940 - 1941
The Blitz

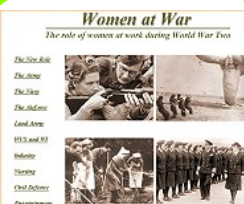
1942
Japanese attack Pearl Harbour

1940 1945
French Resistance fight in secret

June - October 1945
Germany bombards England with Doodlebugs

August 1945
Americans drop atomic bombs on Japan

15th August 1945
VJ Day



UK's tallest mountains