

Year 6 History – How has WW2 impacted Modern Britain?



In this **history** topic, we will look at the events that led to the beginning of World War Two, the countries which were involved and how life in Britain changed during the war. We will explore key figures who were instrumental in the victory of Great Britain.

Allies

The main allies were Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union, which is now Russia and parts of Eastern Europe. Other allies included France, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Canada and China. The leaders of the Allies were Franklin Roosevelt (the United States), Winston Churchill (Great Britain), and Joseph Stalin (the Soviet Union).

Axis

The Axis Powers were the coalition led by Germany, Italy, and Japan. The leader of Germany during WW2 was Adolf Hitler. The connection between Germany and Italy was strengthened by the Pact of Steel, a full military and political alliance signed by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini on 22nd May, 1939.



Everyday Life

British people who weren't fighting in World War II still had a very different life to the one they had before the war. Children who lived in cities were evacuated to the countryside to live with other families therefore not seeing their own for a long time. Food and essentials were rationed, houses and buildings were destroyed by bombs, men who were of age were enlisted to fight in the war, families would spend time in air raid shelters or underground areas during bombing for safety and carry gas masks in case there was a gas bomb attack.

Key People



Adolf Hitler – leader of the Nazi party, referred to as Führer.



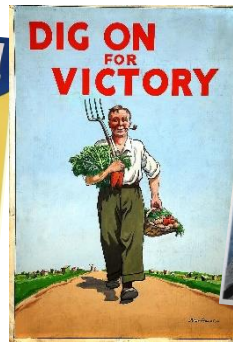
Winston Churchill – UK Prime Minister, 1940 - 1945 (and again from 1951 - 1955).

Key Vocabulary

Air-raid	An attack by enemies dropping bombs.
Allies	Countries (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA) who fought the Axis Powers.
Axis	Germany, Japan, Italy and other countries that fought against the Allies.
Blitz	A prolonged period of German air raids on Britain. From the German 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'.
Censorship	a person or an institution (like a government) controls what information is shared with the public.
Evacuation	Moving people from dangerous areas to safer places e.g. from big cities to the countryside to avoid bombing.
Gas masks	Face masks to protect people from poisonous gas attacks.
Luftwaffe	The German air force.
Spitfire	British aircraft, particularly used during the Battle of Britain and known for its speed and agility.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Rationing	Controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol and other products to avoid or reduce shortages.

Propaganda and Censorship

During World War II, the British government used censorship and propaganda to control information and boost morale. Censorship stopped newspapers and radio from reporting bad news, while propaganda posters and films encouraged people to support the war effort. This helped keep people positive and focused on winning the war.



The Blitz

The Blitz was a period of heavy bombing of Britain by Germany during World War II. Manchester was one of the cities targeted by the German Luftwaffe.

