



Year 6 Behind Enemy Lines Knowledge Organiser

Key Facts

World War 2 took place between 1939 and 1945. World War 2 began when German troops invaded Poland on 1 September 1939.

Britain did not fight alone, the war involved many countries. World war 2 involved 61 countries with 1.7 billion people, which was three quarters of the world's population.

World War 2 was started in Germany in an unprovoked attack on Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany after Hitler (the German leader) refused to abort his invasion of Poland.

Neville Chamberlain was Prime Minister of Great Britain in September in September 1939 at the start of World War 2. In May 1940, he resigned and Winston Churchill became Prime Minister.

It was dangerous living in a big city during the war. Cities were the target of enemy aircraft that flew over at night and dropped bombs. On 7th September 1940, the air raid sirens wailed as the German Air Force, (the Luftwaffe) launched a massive raid on London.

Over 350 bombers flew across the Channel from airfields in France and dropped 300 tonnes of bombs on the docks and streets of the East End of London.

Adolf Hitler was the leader of the German party, which was called the Nazi party. This party sought to make Germany the most powerful empire in the world.

The first World War had to be fought mainly on the ground. World War 2 was a different kind of war as it was both on the ground and in the air.

Key Vocabulary

air raid	An attack in which bombs are dropped from aircraft on to a ground target.
allies	An alliance of nations joining together to fight a common enemy.
D-Day	The day that United States and British forces attacked the German forces on the shores of Normandy, France.
black out	A period when all lights must be turned out or covered to prevent them being seen by the enemy during an air raid.
morse code	An alphabet or code in which letters are represented by combinations of long and short light or sound signals.
propaganda	Propaganda is a way of spreading ideas and influencing people. It was used to decrease the morale of the people on the other side to try and get them to oppose the war and lose their belief in a victory.
rationing	Rationing during the war meant that people had a specific amount of food they could buy each week, and once an item was used up, they had to wait until they got to buy more.
Home Guard	The Home Guard were volunteers who defended the five thousand miles of Britain coastline in the event of an invasion by Germany.
evacuation	Evacuation means leaving a place. Children living in big cities were moved temporarily to places considered safer.

