Year 5/6 History
World War 2

Key Vocabulary	
Vocabulary	**Definition**
Allied Forces	An alliance between a number of countries including Britain, France, Russia, China and the USA
Axis Power	Germany, Italy & Japan
Holocaust	Persecution and murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime
Blitz	Relentless bombing of Britain by the Germans. It lasted for 57 consecutive nights.
Propaganda	Information use and distributed to present one side of an issue. Both sides use this to boost moral
Rationing	The limitation of food and other supplies during and after the war
Invasion	Forcefully taking over another country
Evacuee	A child or vulnerable person sent to live in the countryside for safety

The Role of Women

Before the war, most women stayed at home and did not go out to work. Some women worked but their choice of job was limited, such as nursing or working as a shop assistant. However, when men went to war, women were needed to take on jobs such as making weapons, driving buses and trains or working in engineering or shipbuilding. Some joined the armed forces themselves.

After the war, many women lost their jobs. However, their experiences led them to campaign for equal working rights and pay so that they could continue to lead more independent lives.



How Did the Second World War Begin?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and annexed Austria, which made other countries worried. On 30th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty which allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, Hitler broke the agreement, first invading the rest of Czechoslovakia and then Poland on 1st September. The Allies (Britain, France and Poland) had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Evacuation



During the Second World War, over 3.5 million children, some of their teachers and helpers, mothers with very young children, pregnant women and people with disabilities were evacuated from the cities to the countryside. It was believed they would be safer here from bombing as cities were more likely to be bombed during the Blitz.

Rationing

Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible.



A ration book

Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used.

	Date	Key events
1	September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland
2	September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (*start of WW2*)
3	January, 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK
4	May to June, 1940	Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany Germany uses blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe
5	July, 1940	Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain (*The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begins*) Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact creating the axis alliance
6	December 7, 1941	The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies
7	June 6, 1944	D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans
8	April 30, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
9	May 7, 1945	Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day
10	August 1945	Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan by the US killing approximately 226,000 people
11	September 2, 1945	Japan surrenders signaling the end of WW2
12	July, 1954	Rationing ends in the UK