



# What was the impact of WWII and the Blitz on Britain and its people?






## What I should already know

- Features of rural and urban areas in the United Kingdom.
- The chronology of British history.
- Characteristics of London.
- The location of Germany, France, Italy and Britain in Europe.

## What caused World War II?

After Germany lost World War I, its economy suffered. The German people felt humiliated and, in 1934, the people voted for Hitler, the leader of the Nazi party because he promised to make Germany great again. In order to do this, Hitler invaded Austria and Czechoslovakia. Britain said that if Germany invaded Poland, they would go to war with Germany. On 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. As a result, Britain declared war on Germany on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

## Famous People in World War II

	Neville Chamberlain	Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1937 to 1940
	Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945
	Adolf Hitler	Chancellor of Germany 1934-1945

## How did WWII affect the civilian Population?

### Evacuation:

Many children living in urban areas were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually rural areas of Britain. It began on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1939. When the war was over, the government had to make arrangements for the evacuees to return home.

### Rationing

As part of their campaign, Nazi Germany tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods from coming to Britain. This meant there was less food for people. The government introduced rationing: whatever food was grown, produced or managed to enter Britain was rationed – people had to use a Ration Book during this time.

### Jobs

Many men fought in the war so women were asked to to carry out much of the War work such as being ambulance drivers, mechanics and air raid wardens.

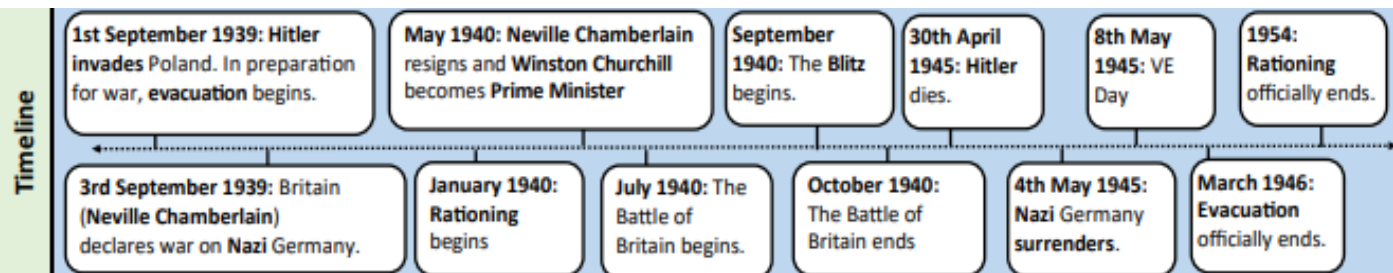
## What was the Battle of Britain and the Blitz?

- The Battle of Britain was a military campaign in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) defended the United Kingdom against large-scale attacks from Nazi Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe. The Luftwaffe were sent to attack British ports and airfields.
- In September 1940, the city of London was heavily bombed. This was called the Blitz. Night bombing was introduced with nightly bombing raids on London and other important industrial cities in Britain.
- People kept themselves safe by using air raid sirens, air raid wardens, black out curtains and air raid shelters.

## Which countries were Allies and which were Axis powers

The major Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan. The major Allied powers were Britain, France, Russia and from 1941, the United States of America.

## World War II 3rd September 1939 – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1945



## Historical Enquiry Questions

- Examine different sources that tell us about life in Britain during WWII – newspaper articles, newsreels, ration books, diaries, photographs.
- What is similar/different about them? Are they reliable?
- What were the causes and consequences of WWII?
- What was life like for different groups of people in WWII?
- How did the role of women change as a consequence of WWII?
- Why wasn't Britain invaded in WWII?