

### What Should I already know?

The **Second World War** started in 1939 and ended in 1945

The **Second World War** had a large effect on life in Britain and many changes such as **rationing and evacuation** had to take place.

One of the main reasons why the Second World War started was that the **dictator** in charge of Germany– named **Adolf Hitler**– decided to invade several other countries despite being told not to.

The **Blitz** was the name given to the bombing of Britain which destroyed many houses and important buildings..

### The Axis start off strong

The **Axis** started the war off very strongly **invading** and **conquering** many countries including Poland, Belgium and most of France very quickly

Germany achieved this by using a very fast-paced tactic called **Blitzkrieg** which meant ‘lightening war’. They had strong and fast units of tanks and planes which made them very hard to stop.

Britain tried to fight back in France but had to **re-treat** their troops back and **evacuate** to Britain in 1940 at a very famous place named **Dunkirk**.



### The Battle of Britain

Germany wanted to **invade** Britain next however their tactic of using tanks to **Blitzkrieg** would not work against Britain due to the **English Channel**.

Hitler did not want to **invade** Britain by sea yet as he was worried that the British planes would destroy any **fleet** sent across the channel.

He decided to try and wipe out the British **air force** in ‘**The Battle of Britain**’ but Britain won and was never **invaded** by Germany.



### The tide turns

In 1941 Russia joined the **Allies** after Germany betrayed them and decided to launch a surprise attack.

The USA also then joined the war on the Allies side in the year 1941 when Japan surprised them by **bombing** their port called **Pearl Harbour**.

With the USA and Russia now on their side the **Allies** were much stronger and started to slowly push the **Axis** forces back all around the world.

Germany surrendered in **1945** as they were surrounded. This is known as **VE Day**.

Japan surrendered not long after when the USA dropped a new type of weapon named an **atomic bomb** onto their country. This is known as **VJ Day**.

### Who were the Axis and the Allies?

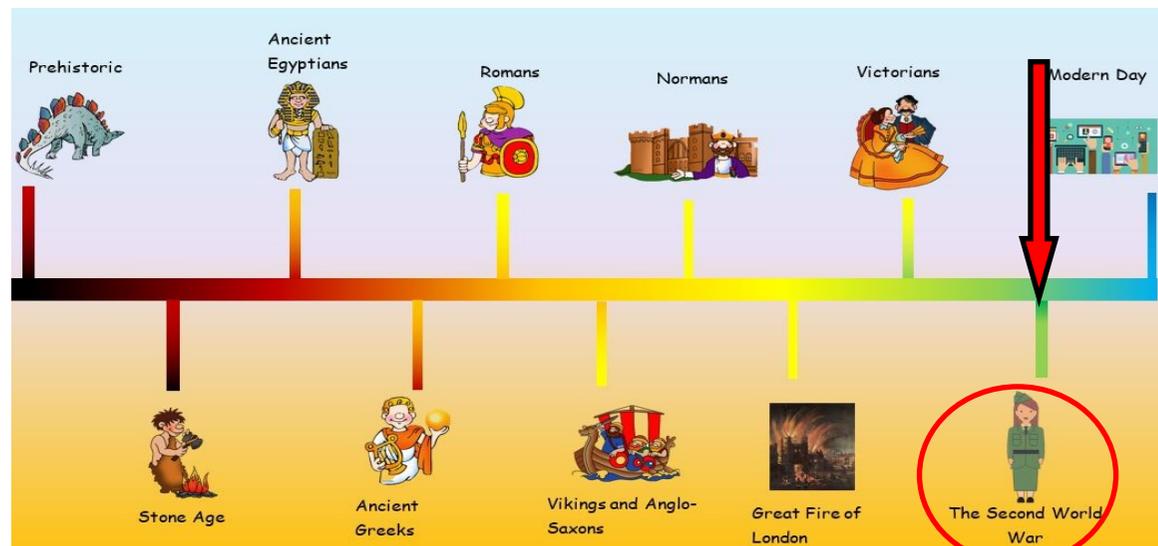
On one side of the war was a group of countries named the ‘**Allies**’ which included the UK and the USA.

On the other side of the war was a group of countries called the ‘**Axis Powers**’ which included Germany and Japan.

A very important country in the war was Russia who switched sides from the Axis to the Allies when Germany betrayed them in 1941.



### Chronology



Question 1:	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Tick the countries if they were part of the Axis powers		
Japan		
USA		
Germany		
Italy		

Question 4: Why didn't Hitler send his fleet to invade Britain straight away?

Question 2:

How were Germany able to conquer so many countries so quickly at the start of the war?

Question 5: What was the name of the famous aeroplane battle over this country which took place in 1940? Who won?

Question 3:	Start of Unit	End of Unit
In 1940 Where did Britain evacuate many of its men in France from?		

Question 6: Which two countries joined the Allies side in 1941 and changed the course of the war?