

Oughterside Foundation School - History

Topic: World War II - The Home Front

Year: A

Strand: Post 1066 Period

What should I already know?

- Features of **rural** and **urban** areas in the United Kingdom.
- The chronology of British history.
- Characteristics of London.
- The location of Germany in the continent of Europe.

What caused WWII?

- After the loss of WWI in 1918, Germany's economy had suffered. In 1934, the people voted for **Hitler**, the leader of the **Nazi** Party to lead them after he had offered them hope.
- Even though he spoke of peace, **Hitler** and the **Nazi** Party **invaded** Austria and Czechoslovakia.
- Two days after the **invasion** of Poland, Britain declared war on **Nazi** Germany.

What was the Battle of Britain and the Blitz?

- The Battle of Britain and the Blitz were **military campaigns** of the Second World War, in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) **defended** the United Kingdom (UK) against large-scale attacks by **Nazi** Germany's air force, the **Luftwaffe**.
- 1. **Hitler** sent his **Luftwaffe** bombers to attack British ports and RAF airfields.
- 2. During the **Blitz** – From September 7th the city of London was heavily bombed.
- 3. Night Bombing – With the failure of daylight bombing raids Hitler began a series of nightly bombing raids on London and other important **industrial** cities.
- People kept safe by using **air raid** sirens, shelters and blackout curtains.



What was the impact of WW2 and the Blitz on Britain?

Evacuation:

- Many children living in **urban** areas were moved temporarily from their homes to places considered safer, usually out in **rural** areas of Britain
- The British **evacuation** began on Friday 1 September 1939. It was called 'Operation Pied Piper'.
- When the war was over, Government began to make travel arrangements to return the **evacuees** to their homes



Rationing:

- As part of their **campaign**, **Nazi** Germans tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods coming to Britain by attacking many of the ships that brought food to Britain.
- This meant that there was less food for the people - whatever food was grown, produced or managed to enter Britain was **rationed** - people used the Ration Book during this time.



Jobs:

- Many men fought in the war and so women were tasked to carry out much of the war work. However, some jobs were protected - men who held these jobs were not called up to join the army (e.g. doctors, miners)
- Jobs undertaken by women during the war included mechanics, ambulance drivers and **air raid** wardens.



Vocabulary

air raid	an attack by military aircraft in which bombs are dropped
Blitz	The heavy bombing of British cities by German aircraft in 1940 and 1941 is referred to as the Blitz
campaign	a planned set of activities that people carry out over a period of time
Chamberlain (Neville)	Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1937 to 1940
Churchill (Winston)	Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945
defend	take action in order to protect something
economy	A country's economy is the wealth that it gets from business and industry
evacuate	To evacuate someone means to send them to a place of safety
Hitler (Adolf)	Leader of the Nazi Party from 1934 to 1945
industrial	An industrial city or country is one in which industry is important
industry	the work and processes involved in collecting raw materials, and making them into products in factories
invasion	to try and take over a place by force
Luftwaffe	the German Air Force
military	relating to or belonging to the army
Nazi	a member of the far-right political party in Germany
Prime Minister	The leader of the government in some countries
rationing	the system of limiting the amount of food, water, petrol, or other substances when there is not enough of them
rural	places that are far away from large towns or cities
surrenders	stop fighting or resisting someone
urban	belonging to, or relating to, a town or city
warden	a person who is responsible for a particular place or thing

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Look at different sources that tell us about life in Britain during WW2 - newspaper articles, ration books, diary entries, photographs. Discuss reliability of sources and what makes them similar/different.
- Read the transcript of Neville Chamberlain's speech - what information can you gather about why he declared war?
- Describe how Britain was able to stand firm against the **Nazi** bombing **campaign**.
- What was life like for different groups of people in Britain during the war?
- What were the causes and consequences of World War II on Britain?
- Give clear reasons why there may be different accounts of history.

Timeline

1st September 1939: Hitler invades Poland. In preparation for war, **evacuation** begins.

May 1940: Neville Chamberlain resigns and **Winston Churchill** becomes **Prime Minister**

September 1940: The **Blitz** begins.

30th April 1945: Hitler dies.

8th May 1945: VE Day

1954: **Rationing** officially ends.

3rd September 1939: Britain (Neville Chamberlain) declares war on **Nazi** Germany.

January 1940: **Rationing** begins

July 1940: The Battle of Britain begins.

October 1940: The Battle of Britain ends

4th May 1945: **Nazi** Germany **surrenders**.

March 1946: **Evacuation** officially ends.

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Question 1: The process of children being sent to a place of safety was called:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
rationing		
evacuation		
the Blitz		
invasion		

Question 2: The process of limiting food because there was not enough supply was called...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
rationing		
evacuation		
the Blitz		
invasion		

Question 3: Which one of these statements is most likely to be true?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Children from London were evacuated to Suffolk.		
Children from Suffolk were evacuated to London		

Question 4: By mid 1943, 90 per cent of single women and 80 per cent of married women were working (source gov.uk). Explain why this was the case.	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 5: Place these in order in which they happened. The first one is done for you.	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Rationing begins		
Nazi Germany invade Poland	1	
Britain declares war.		
Hitler dies.		
The Battle of Britain begins		
VE Day		
Nazi Germany surrenders		

Question 6: Give an example of a job that women did during WW2.	Start of unit:	End of unit:

Question 7: Give an example of a source that tells us about life in Britain during the war.	Start of unit:	End of unit:

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Question 8: List three things people did to keep themselves safe during the Blitz.

Start of unit:

End of unit:

Question 9: Give a cause of WWII.

Start of unit:

End of unit:

Question 10: Explain how Britain changed after WWII.

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Start of unit:

End of unit:	