

Year 6 Spring 1 WW2 A Child's War

Glossary

Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
Nazi Party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
Atomic Bomb	A very high-energy bomb made of radioactive material.
Annex	To take another country's land and make it part of your country.
Propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.
Active Service	Taking part in a military operation as part of the armed forces.
Concentration Camp	A place where large numbers of people, especially Jews, were held and often killed.
Rationing	A limited supply of clothes, food and other goods to prevent shortages.
Evacuee	A child or vulnerable adult sent away from the city to live in the countryside, which was considered safer.

Evacuation

During World War II, over 3.5 million children, along with 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, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. All evacuees had to take their gas mask, ration book and identity card. When they reached their destination, a billeting officer would arrange a host family for them. Evacuation happened in waves, beginning on 1st September 1939. Other waves occurred at the start of the Battle of Britain and at the start of the Blitz.

Rationing

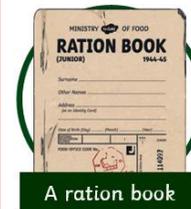
Supply ships were targeted by German bombers and it was necessary to conserve as much food as possible. Rationing meant that each person was only allowed a fixed amount of foods. Ration books were issued, with coupons that showed people how much of each item they were allowed. Shopkeepers would remove or stamp the coupons when they were used. People were also encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' and grow as much of their own food as possible. Petrol, soap, clothing and timber were also in short supply. Clothing ration books were issued and people were encouraged to 'make do and mend'.

Why did WW2 start?

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 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland (an area of Czechoslovakia) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of Czechoslovakia, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

Holocaust

The Holocaust is the term for the killing of over six million Jewish people before and during World War II, organised by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party. Even before the war, they wanted to blame the Jews for the problems in Germany and used propaganda to promote widespread public hatred of them. Jewish people were openly bullied, persecuted, abused and discriminated against.



A ration book

Allied leaders

- Winston Churchill**
Prime Minister of Great Britain
- Charles de Gaulle**
President of France
- Joseph Stalin**
Leader of the Soviet Union
- Franklin D Roosevelt**
President of the United States

Axis leaders

- Adolf Hitler**
Leader of Germany
- Benito Mussolini**
Prime Minister of Italy
- Michinomiya Hirohito**
Emperor of Japan