



WWII in Birmingham - Knowledge Organiser

St Gregory's Catholic Primary School – Year 4



Dates to Remember									
1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945
On 1 st September Germany invades Poland	On 3 rd September England declares war on Germany	10 th May Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister	12 th May German forces enter France	USA declares war on Italy & Germany	British troops win back North Africa	Italy surrenders to the Allies	6 th June D-Day landings on Normandy beaches	Hitler commits suicide	Japan surrenders on 2 nd September and the end of war declared

Key Vocabulary	Historical Facts	Key Figures
Anderson shelter	<p>Who and Why? <i>Allies:</i> Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, China and USA <i>Axis Powers:</i> Germany, Italy and Japan 70 million people lost their lives (24 million from the Soviet Union). France and England declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland and the USA joined the war effort after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.</p> <p>The Jewish Community Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust.</p> <p>Home Guard Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against German invasion, members of this 'Dad's Army' were usually men above or below the age of conscription and those unfit or ineligible for front line military service. 1.5 million enrolled and supported the war effort through bomb disposal, manning anti-aircraft artillery and readied for invasion.</p>	Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940) British Prime Minister from 1937-1940; Chamberlain was Prime Minister when Britain declared war on Germany.
blackout		Winston Churchill (1874-1965) British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.
Blitz		Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party
evacuee		Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945) United States President during most of WWII.
gas mask		Joseph Stalin (1878-1953) Leader of the Soviet Union during World War II
Nazis		
ration cards		
Anderson shelter	Half buried in the ground and with earth on top, they protected people from bomb blasts.	
blackout	All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.	
Blitz	The sustained aerial bombing against Britain by Nazis. Blitz means lightning in German.	
evacuee	Designed to protect people, especially children, by moving them to areas of less risk.	
gas mask	Issued to all civilians at the start of the war, gas masks were used to protect from gas attacks	
Nazis	Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled Germany between 1933 and 1945.	
ration cards	Ration cards were given out and only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.	

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

