

# Britain at war knowledge organiser

## Key questions:

Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia (1939-1941))
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941-1945))

Did Britain stand firm against its enemy in WW2?

How does the impact of WW2 compare with the impact of the previous invasions we have learnt about?

### Significant Figures:



Winston Churchill:  
Leader of Britain and its Empire.



Adolf Hitler: Leader of Germany.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Leader of the USA.



Josef Stalin: Leader of the USSR.

### Women and Children at War

Children were taught drills on how to get to safety in case of an air raid.

Many children were evacuated from cities to the countryside.

Women worked in factories, as mechanics, air force, farms

Women became more independent, felt valued and were an important part of victory.

### The Home Front

The Government issued **gas masks** to everyone in Britain

German submarines were attacking British ships creating a shortage of supplies. This led to **rationing**.

**Propaganda** posters were used to encourage citizens to act safely and support the war effort

Air raid shelters were built in gardens called **Anderson Shelters**.

Shelters under stairs or in a house were called **Morrison Shelters**.

## Key vocabulary:

**campaign:** a group of actions done with a specific purpose.

**dictatorship:** a form of government in which a person or small group rules with almost unlimited power..

**democracy:** a government that is run for and voted for by the people.

**evacuation:** leaving a place often temporarily due to safety concerns.

**Nazi:** National Socialist German Workers Party. Lead by Adolf Hitler.

**propaganda:** a form of communication used to distribute information. Used by both allied and axis forces to encourage people to believe in their actions.

**rationing:** limiting of food or goods in high demand and short supply.

### Royal Air Force



The Royal Air Force, (shortened to the RAF) is the air force of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In the Battle of Britain the RAF was the main opponent of the Luftwaffe. The RAF fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain became known as 'The Few', taken from Winston Churchill's phrase 'Never...was so much owed by so many to so few.' It is thought that British RAF crew numbered 2,353 of the total 3,000 men who fought in the battle on the side of the allies. In total, 407 lost their lives.

### Luftwaffe



The Luftwaffe was the German aerial warfare branch in World War II. The Luftwaffe was widely feared, and had been vital as the Germans had invaded and defeated Poland and western mainland Europe. In the Battle of Britain, despite causing severe damage to Britain's RAF (and to towns and cities across the country), the Luftwaffe was unable to destroy the British aerial forces. The Luftwaffe was later defeated by Allied forces, and was disbanded after the war was lost.