

Team 3 - Knowledge Organiser – World War II

What you should know already:

- Causes and consequences of WWII in Britain in our local area
- The location of the United States of America, Russia and some European countries, including Germany and France.
- Some key vocabulary relating to WWI

Top Ten Vocabulary

Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France and Russia (1941-1945)).
Axes	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany and Japan (1939-1941)).
Blitz	An intensive military attack. The German word for “lightning”.
Air raid	An attack by enemy planes dropping bombs.
Nazi	Short for National Socialist Party (in Germany) and the name given to supporters of Hitler.
Rationing	Controlling the supply of food, clothes, petrol and other products to avoid or reduce shortages..
Black out	Making sure no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes.
Evacuation	The process of moving people away from an area where they are in danger to a safer area.
Home front	Activities at home in a country while soldiers are away fighting.
V-Day	Victory in Europe day - marking the Allied victory in Europe in 1945.

Synopsis

As Historians, we will be exploring the events of World War Two and how this impacted our local area. We will explore life on the home front in Crediton and other rural towns during WWII, looking at “land girls” and other jobs and duties people took on. We will look at the events of Exeter Blitz and evacuations from the city to areas like Crediton in the countryside.

The Allies



The Axis



Bomb damage in Exeter during the Blitz © Reproduced by permission of Historic England Archive. Ref: BB42/00714

Key Knowledge

Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939. There were many reasons why war broke out, but a key reason was Germany had invaded Poland, which Britain had promised to protect.

While soldiers were away fighting in the war, people in communities like Crediton worked on jobs on the “**home front**”. These included working in factories and farming the land for food. **Rationing** and **black outs** were introduced across the country.

Many children were also **evacuated** to rural towns like Crediton. This was due to bombing and **air raids** in major cities, and places such as Exeter were bombed as part of the **Blitz**.

The war ended on 4th May 1945 and is celebrated on **VE day** across Europe each year.

