

Subject: History

Year 6

NC/PoS:

Pupils should be taught about:

- **A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.**
- Significant turning points in British history in the 20th century.
- Understanding how historical events shaped modern Britain.
- Using sources of evidence to ask and answer historical questions.

Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)

End Points (What pupils should know by the end of the unit)

By the end of the topic pupils should be able to:

1. **Explain some of the main causes of World War II.**
2. **Identify key countries and leaders involved in the war.**
3. **Describe the impact of the Blitz and evacuation on Britain.**
4. **Explain how everyday life changed through rationing and war work.**
5. **Understand the importance of major events such as D-Day and VE Day.**
6. **Explain how World War II changed Britain socially and politically.**
7. **Use historical vocabulary such as allies, axis, evacuation, rationing, invasion and propaganda.**

Key Vocabulary

Component 1 LO:

Why Did World War II Happen?

Learning Objective

To understand the main causes of World War II.

Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask pupils:

- **What do countries need in order to stay peaceful?**
- **Why might wars begin?**
- **What do you already know about World War I?**

Discuss how one war can create problems that lead to another.

Starter

Display a timeline from 1918–1939.

Key dates:

- **End of World War I**
- **Treaty of Versailles**
- **Rise of Adolf Hitler**
- **Invasion of Poland (1939)**

Ask:

- **Which events might increase tension?**

Main Activity

Teacher Input:

Explain key causes simply:

1. **Harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles**
2. **Economic problems in Germany**

3. Rise of dictators such as Hitler

4. Expansion of Nazi Germany

5. Failure of appeasement

Introduce:

- **Germany**
- **United Kingdom**
- **France**
- **Poland**

Children complete a cause-and-effect diagram showing how one problem led to another.

Written task:

Which cause do you think was most important and why?

Alternative Activity Ideas

- **Role play peace talks after WWI.**
- **Ranking cards of causes from least to most important.**

Adaptations for SEND

- **Simplified cause cards with visuals.**
- **Adult-supported sequencing activity.**
- **Sentence stems for written answers.**

Key Vocabulary

- **Treaty**
- **Dictator**
- **Appeasement**

- **Tension**

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 2 LO:

Who Fought in World War II?

Learning Objective

To understand which countries and leaders were involved in World War II.

Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask:

- What is an alliance?
- Why do countries work together during war?

Starter

Show flags of countries involved. Ask pupils to identify any they know.

Main Activity

Teacher Input:

Explain the two main sides:

Allies

- United Kingdom
- France
- United States
- Soviet Union

Axis Powers

- Germany
- Italy
- Japan

Introduce leaders:

- Winston Churchill
- Adolf Hitler
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Children create a **countries and leaders fact file**.

Alternative Activity Ideas

- Map labelling task.
- Match leaders to countries.

Adaptations for SEND

- Colour-coded teams (Allies/Axis).
- Picture and symbol support.

Key Vocabulary

- Allies
- Axis
- Alliance
- Leader

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 3: LO:

The Blitz and Evacuation

Learning Objective

To understand how the Blitz and evacuation affected people living in Britain.

Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask:

- **What dangers do civilians face during war?**
- **Why might children need to leave cities?**

Starter

Show photographs of blackout curtains, shelters and evacuee labels.

Ask:

- What do these clues tell us?

Main Activity

Teacher Input:

Explain the The Blitz and how many cities were bombed.

Introduce:

- London
- Coventry
- Birmingham

Explain evacuation:

Children from cities were moved to safer countryside areas.

Children complete two tasks:

1. Pack an evacuee suitcase – choose 6 sensible items and explain choices.
2. Write a diary entry from the perspective of an evacuee child.

Alternative Activity Ideas

- Build a model Anderson shelter.
- Listen to wartime sounds and discuss feelings.

Adaptations for SEND

- Use picture suitcase cards.
- Diary sentence starters.

- **Oral storytelling option.**

Key Vocabulary

- **Blitz**
- **Evacuation**
- **Shelter**
- **Civilian**

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.iwm.org.uk>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 4 LO:

Life on the Home Front

Learning Objective

To understand how everyday life in Britain changed during World War II.

Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask:

- What things do families buy every week?
- What happens if supplies are limited?

Starter

Show images of ration books, victory gardens and wartime posters.

Main Activity

Teacher Input:

Explain how Britain introduced:

- Rationing
- Blackouts
- Dig for Victory campaign
- Women entering new jobs
- War factories

Introduce:

- Dig for Victory

Children rotate around stations:

1. Plan weekly rationed meals
2. Analyse wartime propaganda posters
3. Compare jobs before and during war

Written reflection:

Was life on the Home Front difficult? Explain your answer.

Alternative Activity Ideas

- Create a wartime poster.
- Grow vegetables in school planters.

Adaptations for SEND

- Simplified ration cards.

- Discussion-based evidence sorting.

Key Vocabulary

- Rationing
- Propaganda
- Blackout
- Home Front

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 5 LO:

Major Turning Points: D-Day and VE Day

Learning Objective

To understand why D-Day and VE Day were important turning points in World War II.

Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask:

- What is a turning point?
- How does a war end?

Starter

Show two images:

- Soldiers landing on beaches
- Crowds celebrating in Britain

Main Activity

Teacher Input:

Explain **D-Day** as a major step toward defeating Nazi Germany.

Explain **VE Day** when war ended in Europe.

Children create a **timeline of major events**:

- 1939 war begins
- Blitz
- D-Day
- VE Day

Then answer:

Why was D-Day risky but important?

Alternative Activity Ideas

- Newspaper front page for VE Day.
- Timeline relay race.

Adaptations for SEND

- Pre-cut timeline cards.
- Verbal explanation instead of extended writing.

Key Vocabulary

- Invasion
- Victory
- Liberation
- Timeline

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 6 LO:

What Impact Did World War II Have on Britain?

Learning Objective

To understand the long-term impact of World War II on Britain.

Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Recap:

- Causes of war
- Blitz
- Rationing
- Victory

Ask:

- Did life return to normal immediately?

Starter

Display images of:

- New housing
- National Health Service
- Women working
- Rebuilding cities

Main Activity

Teacher Input:

Explain long-term impacts:

- Damaged cities rebuilt
- Greater role of women in society
- New welfare reforms
- Founding of the NHS in 1948
- Continued rationing after the war

Children create a **final enquiry project** answering:

Why did World War II happen and what impact did it have on Britain?

Must include:

1. Causes of war
2. Key events
3. Life during war
4. Changes after war
5. Why it is remembered today

Formats:

- Poster
- Presentation
- Booklet
- Documentary script

Alternative Activity Ideas

- Museum exhibition walk.
- End-of-unit quiz.

Adaptations for SEND

- Structured templates.
- Verbal presentation option.
- Reduced writing with key bullet points.

Key Vocabulary

- Impact
- Rebuild
- Welfare
- Legacy

Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Assessment Opportunities

- Cause and effect diagrams
- Country/leader fact files
- Evacuee diary writing
- Home Front source analysis
- Timelines
- Final enquiry project

Helpful Lesson Planning & Resource Tools

Chalkie AI (teacher planning tool)

- <https://chalkie.ai>

Other helpful resources:

- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach>
- <https://www.iwm.org.uk>