

World War 2: KS2 Knowledge Mat

		War Timeline	Sticky Knowledge
Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan (1939-1941))	1 st September 1939	<p>World War 2 was a battle between two groups of countries – the “Allies” and the “Axis”. The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States. The major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.</p> <p>Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on 1 September 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun.</p> <p>During the course of the war, German forces advanced through Europe. By the summer of 1941 they had invaded France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and the USSR.</p> <p>Millions of Germans were imprisoned and killed because they didn't fit the image of the 'perfect' German. Hitler wanted to create what he thought was the “best” and strongest race – and to the Nazi Party, this excluded certain groups, such as Jews, Gypsies and those with physical and mental disabilities. The group most heavily targeted by the Nazis were the Jews. Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust. Racist in his views, Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German people and society.</p> <p>The US didn't join the war until 1941, when Japan attacked the United States - at their Naval Base at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. On 8 December 1941 (the very next day), the US declared War on Japan and, in turn, its German allies.</p> <p>Some countries remained 'neutral' in World War 2. Such countries were Spain, Sweden and Switzerland – who chose not to join either side.</p> <p>The Germans surrendered on 8 May 1945. In 1944, an Allied army crossed from Britain to free France from Nazi rule. One year later, Allied armies invaded Germany, forcing the Germans to surrender. After nuclear attacks on Japan's major cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan also surrendered to Allied forces in August the same year. World War 2 had ended.</p>
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941-1945))	1939 Onwards	
Nazi	Member of the German political group which came to power in 1933	10th May 1940	
Evacuation	Organised movement of children and the vulnerable from towns and cities to safe zones	June 1940	
Evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place.	6th June 1944	
Blitz	A series of bombing raids on the UK	7th May 1945	
Propaganda	Controlling news media (such as radio) to depict the war effort	8th May 1945	
Holocaust	Murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis	6th August 1945	
Luftwaffe	The German Airforce.	15th August 1945	
RAF	The Royal Airforce- British.		
Refugees	A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war.		
Kindertransport	Transport arranged for Jewish children to flee German occupied countries		

