

## Year 9 – World War Two The Home Front

### Key events of the war

<b>Evacuation – 1939 - 1945</b>	
<b>1. Why was evacuation introduced?</b>	The British government was worried that a new war might begin when Hitler came to power in 1933. They were afraid that British cities and towns would be targets for bombing raids by aircraft.
<b>2. Who was evacuated?</b>	Schoolchildren and their teachers, Mothers with children under five (524,000), Pregnant women (12,000), Some disabled people. In total approximately 3.5 million children were evacuated during World War Two
<b>3. How were they evacuated?</b>	By train and road. Children labelled with name & destination & a bit of luggage. Many taken by their teachers,
<b>4. Where were they evacuated to?</b>	To smaller towns and villages in the countryside. Some children were sent to stay with relatives outside in the countryside, but others were sent to live with complete strangers (host families)
<b>5. When were they first evacuated?</b>	At 11.07am on Thursday 31st August 1939 the order was given to evacuate forthwith. 1.5 Million children, pregnant women and other vulnerable people such as the disabled, evacuated to safer countryside locations in just two days.
<b>Rationing</b>	
<b>6. Rationing</b>	Official rationing began on 8 January 1940 with bacon, butter and sugar. Rations booklets were needed & people registered with shops.
<b>7. Dig for Victory</b>	The Ministry of Food's 'Dig For Victory' campaign encouraged self-sufficiency. Allotment numbers rose from 815,000 to 1.4 million.
<b>8. Substitutes</b>	People found substitutes to many goods during the war. Sugar could be replaced by honey, tea tablets were used to make the tea look stronger, dried eggs could be used in baking or frying (if mixed with water - not pleasant). Horse meat was sometimes referred to as 'fit for human consumption'.
<b>9. Black Market</b>	Set up to sell goods illegally, often at a higher price.
<b>Propaganda</b>	
<b>10. The media</b>	Posters, radio, films and newspapers were used to keep up people's spirits, make the most of victories and make fun of the enemy.
<b>11. Censorship</b>	Governments controlled what was written in newspapers and said on the radio to stop an negative images getting out..

<b>12. Dunkirk</b>	The Low Countries (Holland & Belgium), France and the BEF [British Expeditionary Forces], proved no match for the Wehrmacht [Germany army]and the Luftwaffe [German air force]. British troops retreated from the invaders and some 226,000 British and 110,000 French troops were rescued from the port of Dunkirk by mix of boats that ranged from fishing boats to Navy destroyers.
<b>13. Battle of Britain</b>	The Battle of Britain, lasting from July to Oct 1940, was the first to be fought solely in the air. German aim was to control the skies so it could invade Britain. Germany had a bigger air force, but Britain had radar. Germany also decided to attack factories & town, not the airfields, allowing the RAF to counter attack. The RAF had a narrow victory & postponed the German invasion plans.
<b>14. Blitz</b>	On 7 September 1940, the Luftwaffe unleashed bombing campaign against London and Britain's major cities. Aim to break morale [positive feeling] and make Britain give up. Instead the raids brought country together and created the 'Blitz Spirit' (Keep Calm & Carry On) The bombing continued for 76 nights in a row, with daytime raids as well. Liverpool, Manchester, Swansea, Cardiff, Bristol, Southampton were also targeted. Coventry Blitz one of the worst - over 400 bombers attacked Coventry that night and in the early morning of November 15 <sup>th</sup> 1940. 75% of all buildings in the city were destroyed; 33% of all factories were destroyed and 50% of all homes. Most people had to exist without water, gas or electricity
<b>15. D-Day</b>	Operation Overlord. 6 June 1944 some 6,500 vessels landed over 130,000 Allied forces on five Normandy beaches: codenamed Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. Start pushing Germany out of France and to defeat.
<b>16. Dresden</b>	February 13 - February 15, 1945. Allied forces bombed the historic city of Dresden, Germany. The bombing was controversial - Dresden not important to wartime production or a major industrial center. Fire bombs dropped – caused a fire storm. Estimated at somewhere between 35,000 and 135,000 died.
<b>17. War in the Pacific</b>	After the attack on Pearl Harbour America started to attack Japanese forces in the Pacific. They moved from island to island, removing Japanese forces, as well as attacking the Japanese navy. 1942 saw the battle of Midway stop Japanese expansion. The Japanese fought fiercely – with many fighting to the death, such as on the island of Iwo Jima – defended by roughly 23,000 Japanese, with only 1,083 prisoners (American losses included 5,900 dead and 17,400 wounded)