

# Britain at War:

## Knowledge Organiser.

### Key Words

Key word	Meaning
Alliance	A group of countries who have agreed to work together because of shared aims.
Appeasement	Giving the opposite side something they have demanded to prevent further disagreement.
Colony	A nation controlled by another country.
Genocide	The deliberate killing of large numbers of people from a particular nation or ethnic group, with the aim of destroying that nation or group.
Militarism	The belief that it is necessary to build up and use strong armed forces to gain power, money and land.
Reparation	Payment made by a defeated country after a war to pay for damages it causes to another country.
Stalemate	A situation in which neither side can get an advantage, and no action can be taken.

### What is war?

War is a period of intentional actions, including armed fighting, between two or more countries or groups to force the enemy to adhere to their will.

### World War I Timeline:

Timeline of events	
August 1914	Britain declares war on Germany
October 1914	First Battle of Ypres
Jan-Feb 1915	Ottoman Empire attacks Suez Canal
February 1915	Gallipoli Campaign begins
May 1915	Italy joins the Allied Powers
Feb-Dec 1916	Battle of Verdun
June-Sept 1916	Brusilov Offensive
July-Nov 1916	Battle of the Somme
April 1917	United States joins the Allied Powers
November 1918	Germany surrenders, and the war ends

### Warring Countries:

At the start of the war, the warring nations divided into two opposing groups. The Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire) were on one side. The Allied Powers (Great Britain, France and Russia) were on the other. The Central Powers were geographically surrounded by the Allied Powers and had to fight on several fronts.



### Start of WWI:

In August 1914, German troops invaded Belgium. Allied forces pushed the German army back to north-west France, where both sides dug defensive trenches. This Western Front stretched from the English Channel to Switzerland. The German military also fought Russian forces on the Eastern Front, dividing their troops.

With a stalemate in Europe, the Allies attacked the Ottoman Empire at Gallipoli in April 1915 to try to take the capital, Constantinople. The Allies were defeated and suffered heavy casualties.

### Trench Warfare:

On the battlefield, soldiers faced firepower from machine guns and artillery. Both sides dug networks of trenches to escape shells and bullets. Trenches were cold and muddy and often infested with rats. Diseases spread quickly, and food was poor. Trench warfare took a considerable toll on soldiers' physical and mental health.



End

of

### WWI:

The First World War ended on 11th November 1918, when Germany surrendered. Several factors brought about the Allied Powers' victory, including the United States declaring war on Germany after German submarines sank American ships. In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles held Germany responsible for the war and ordered Germany to pay vast amounts in reparations. The devastation this caused to Germany played a part in the outbreak of the Second World War

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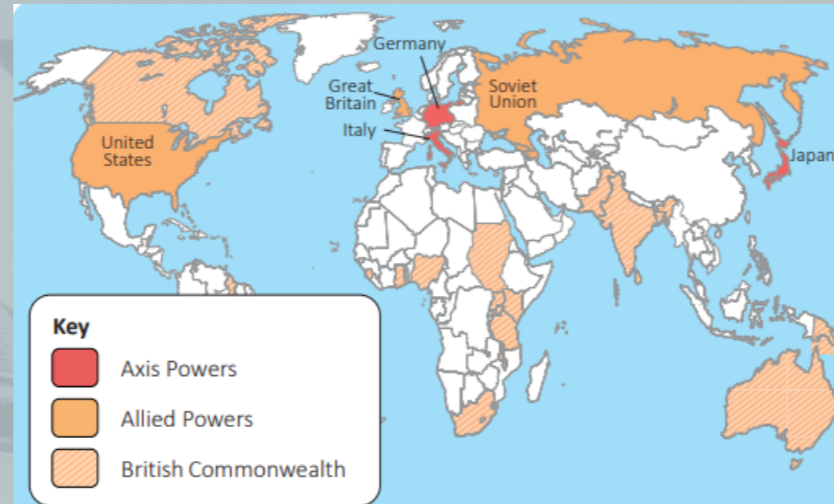
## World War II Timeline:

### Timeline of events

<b>September 1939</b>	Germany invades Poland, and Poland surrenders
<b>April 1940</b>	Germany invades neutral Norway
<b>May 1940</b>	Germany takes control of Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands
<b>May-June 1940</b>	Germany invades France and Operation Dynamo rescues Allied soldiers from Dunkirk
<b>June 1940</b>	France surrenders to Germany
<b>July-Oct 1940</b>	Battle of Britain
<b>December 1941</b>	Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and the United States enters the war
<b>July 1943</b>	Allied forces invade Italy, and Italy later surrenders
<b>June 1944</b>	D-Day
<b>May 1945</b>	Germany surrenders (VE Day)
<b>Aug-Sept 1945</b>	The United States drops atomic bombs on Japan, Japan surrenders, and the war ends

## Warring Countries:

The major nations involved in the Second World War were the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) and the Allied Powers (Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States). Germany was led by the fascist dictator Adolf Hitler, who wanted to expand German territory and create a pure German race. At the start of the war, Britain's prime minister was Neville Chamberlain. Winston Churchill replaced him in May 1940.



## Preparation of War:

Britain had learned lessons from the First World War. Barrage balloons were placed over London to stop low-flying bombers. Gas masks were issued to the civilian population, and bomb shelters were built. Blackouts were compulsory, and children were evacuated from cities. Conscription was introduced to increase numbers in the army. Food rationing began, and ration cards were issued.

## Battle of Britain:

The Battle of Britain took place in the skies above Britain from July to October 1940. Adolf Hitler was planning a land attack on Britain but first had to control the skies to prevent British air attacks. The superior British planes and their organised air-defence system overcame the German Luftwaffe. This was a turning point in the war as Adolf Hitler could not continue with his land invasion plan.



## End of World War II:

End of the Second World War The Second World War ended on 2nd September 1945, when Japan formally surrendered. Many factors brought about the end of the war. The Allied Powers' D-Day invasion on 6th June 1944 resulted in Allied troops liberating Paris and Brussels. The Battle of the Bulge failed to break the Allied line. Adolf Hitler realised Germany had lost the war and committed suicide on 30th April 1945. The war against Japan ended after the United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## Post-War World:

After the Second World War, the Allied Powers split Germany into West and East Germany. International agreements were signed to ban chemical weapons, torture and genocide. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was approved, which still forms the basis of international human rights law. The welfare state and National Health Service were created in Britain. Many of the war's technological innovations were redeveloped for civilians.

## Remembrance:

Remembrance is the act of remembering and honouring the people who died as a result of the conflict. The poppy is a symbol of remembrance after poppies grew in the Western Front battlefields. Memorials, monuments and war cemeteries all serve to remind us of the sacrifice made by millions of people.

