

The Second World War

For almost six years from 1939 to 1945 Britain fought the toughest war it had ever experienced. World War II was total war - every person, every business, every service was involved.

Britain did not fight alone, the war also involved 61 countries with 1.7 billion people (three quarters of the world's population). Fifty million people lost their lives and hundreds of millions people were injured.

How did the Second World War start?

After World War One ended in 1918, Germany had to give up land and was banned from having armed forces. In 1933 the German people voted for a leader named Adolf Hitler, who led a political party in Germany called the National Socialists or Nazis.

Hitler promised to make his country great again and quickly began to arm Germany and to seize land from other countries. Shortly before 5am on Friday 1st September, 1939, German forces stormed the Polish frontier. Tanks and motorised troops raced into the country over ground, supported by Stuka dive bombers overhead. A total of 1.25 million Germans soldiers swept into Poland.

Britain and France declared war on Germany after Hitler refused to abort his invasion of Poland.

What effect did the war have on people?

World War II brought a lot of suffering and hardship to thousands of people.

- German bombers made terrifying **night raids**.
- Families were broken up as men were sent to the **front lines** to fight, some never to return.
- Children were **evacuated** and sent out of the cities to stay with strangers, away from the bombing.
- Shops were half empty of things to buy and what was available was often **rationed**.
- The peaceful routine of everyday life was shattered.



L/O: Can I retrieve?

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1. When did the second world war start and how long did it last?

2. How many countries were involved in WWII?

3. What was the name of the political party which Hitler lead?

4. Which country did the Germans invade first?

5. List three effects that the war had on people .

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!



L/O: Can I find main idea and detail?

The Second World War

1. What is the main idea of paragraph one?

2. What is the main idea of paragraph two?

3. What is the main idea of paragraph three?

4. What is the main idea of paragraph four?

5. What is the main idea of the whole page of information?

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!



L/O: Can I understand author's choice?

The Second World War

1. Find and highlight the phrase 'total war'. What does this phrase mean? How does the author help you to understand this?

2. Find and highlight the word 'stormed' what do you think it means?

3. Find and highlight the phrase 'night raid'. What do you think it means?

4. Find and highlight the word 'evacuated'. What do you think it means?

5. Find and highlight the word 'rationed'. What do you think it means?

Restate the question.

Answer in a complete sentence.

Prove with evidence!



1. Highlight the main ideas in the text. Using this information, write a summary of the text in the space below.

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