

Year 9 History

Knowledge Organiser

World War Two, 1939-45

Term 3

Name:

Class:



Enquiry Question:

How did the Second World develop and what challenges still faced the Allies at the end of it?

Big Questions:

- 1) What was Operation Barbarossa and why did it fail?
- 2) Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?
- 3) Why was the Battle of the Atlantic vital so important?
- 4) How and why was D-Day successful for the Allies?
- 5) What role did Northampton play during the Second World War?
- 6) How did the war end and what were the challenges facing Europe after VE Day?
- 7) To what extent was America justified in dropping the atomic bomb?

After the Nazis initial dominance in the Second World War and their lightning quick takeover of France, their plans stalled after their defeat in the Battle of Britain. Hitler's attention instead turned to the Soviet Union, a country they had signed a non-aggression pact with in 1939. Nonetheless, Hitler chose to invade the country in June 1941, confident in his assumption that his forces were racially superior and that the Russian people were ill-prepared for war. He was fatally wrong in this, and Operation Barbarossa turned out to be one of his largest miscalculations.

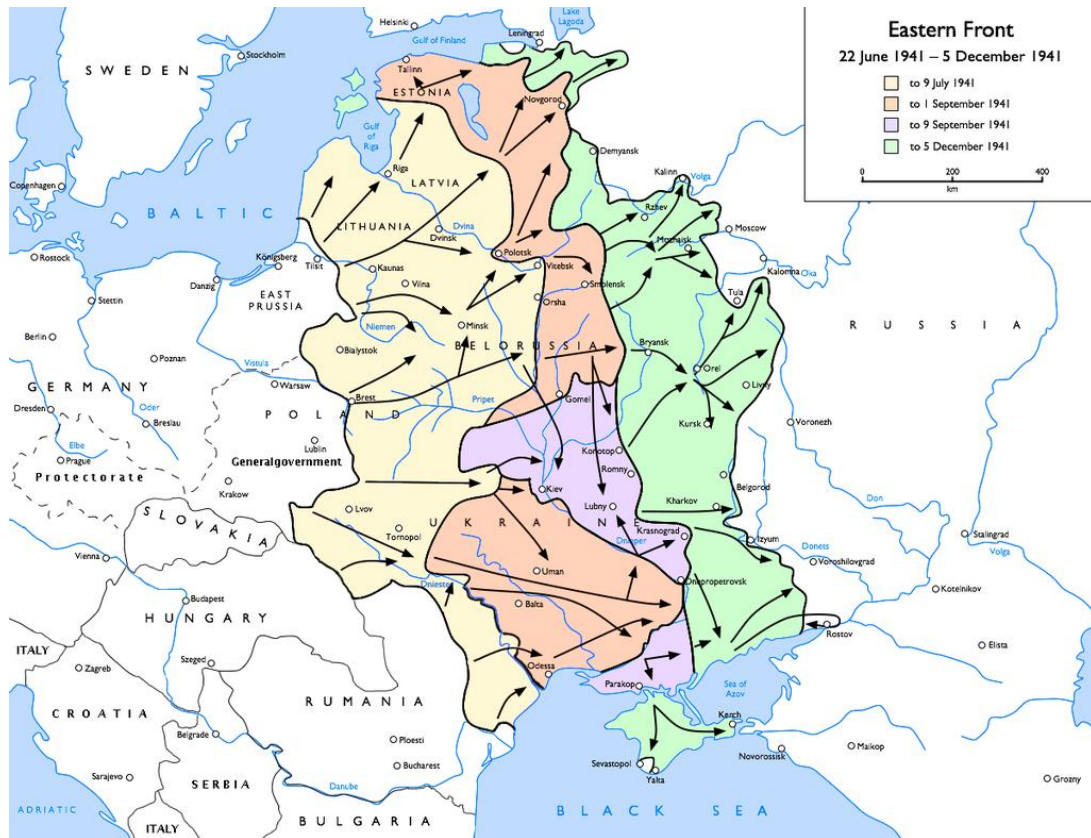
To add to Hitler's problems, Japan (their allies) launched a surprise attack on the United States of America, who up to December 1941 had not joined the war. This attack on the US naval base of Pearl Harbor led to US President Franklin D. Roosevelt asking Congress for their approval to join the conflict, launching a new phase in the war.

By 1944, the Allied forces were prepared to launch a daring takeover of land taken by the Nazi forces in France. They chose Normandy as their landing spot, targeting five different beaches. D-Day in June 1944 was bloody, but ultimately successful for the Allies, and by 1945 they had surrounded Berlin. VE Day was joyfully celebrated across Europe and America in May 1945.

However, the fighting was not done. The War in the Pacific still raged on, and there was much debate about how to end this conflict that was nearing its sixth year. US President Harry Truman ultimately made the decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan; one in Hiroshima, and another in Nagasaki three days later. This led to the final surrender of Japan on 15 August 1945, with the final peace declaration signed on 2 September 1945.

Big Question 1

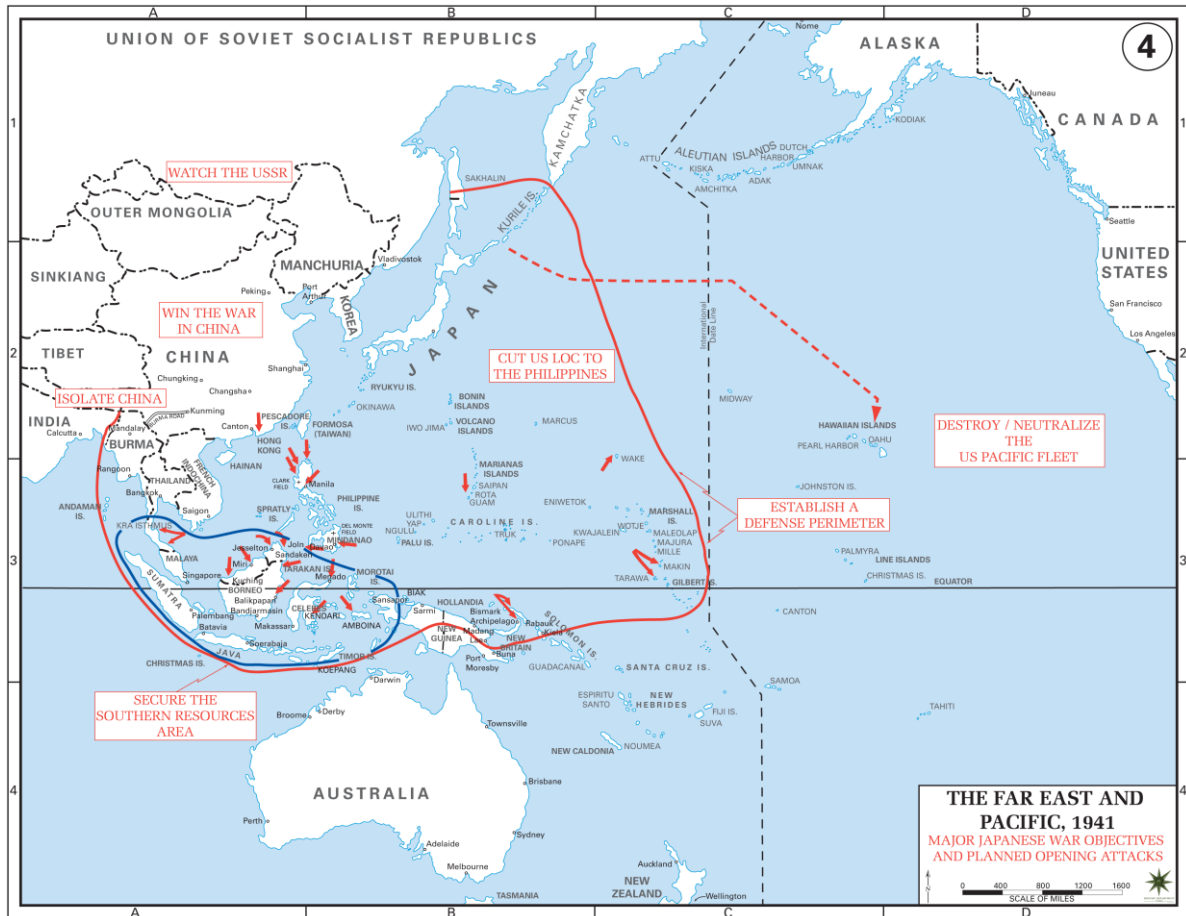
What was Operation Barbarossa and why did it fail?



Stalin's leadership	Russia's geography	Hitler's racism	Russian people
The Russian leader, Josef Stalin, ordered any Russian soldiers who ran or tried to surrender to be shot.	In winter, petrol froze in tanks and planes when temperatures were -30 degrees. German soldiers caught frostbite.	Hitler believed the Russians were subhumans. He treated them harshly and so the Russian people knew they were fighting for their lives.	Russians were used to living through harsh winters – they could cope with the conditions better than the Germans.
Stalin's policy of 'scorched earth' meant the German did not capture any new materials.	Russia is a huge country – Germans had to use up lots of fuel and supplies travelling across it.	Hitler believed the Russians were no match for his superior army.	The Russian people attacked German guards and supply lines when captured.
Stalin moved all of the weapons factories to the east, out of range of the German bombers.			Many women joined the army and became snipers, drivers and pilots.

Big Question 2

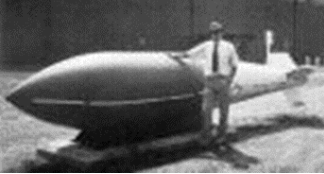
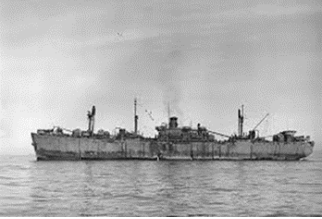

Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?



Date	7 December 1941
Location	Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, USA
Time	7:55am – 9:10am
Duration	1 hour 15 minutes
Japanese planes	353 aircraft (40 torpedo planes, 103 level bombers), 131 dive-bombers, 79 fighters)
Deaths	2403 US (including 68 civilians)
Aftermath	8 December 1941 = Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan 11 December 1941 = Germany and Italy declared war on US

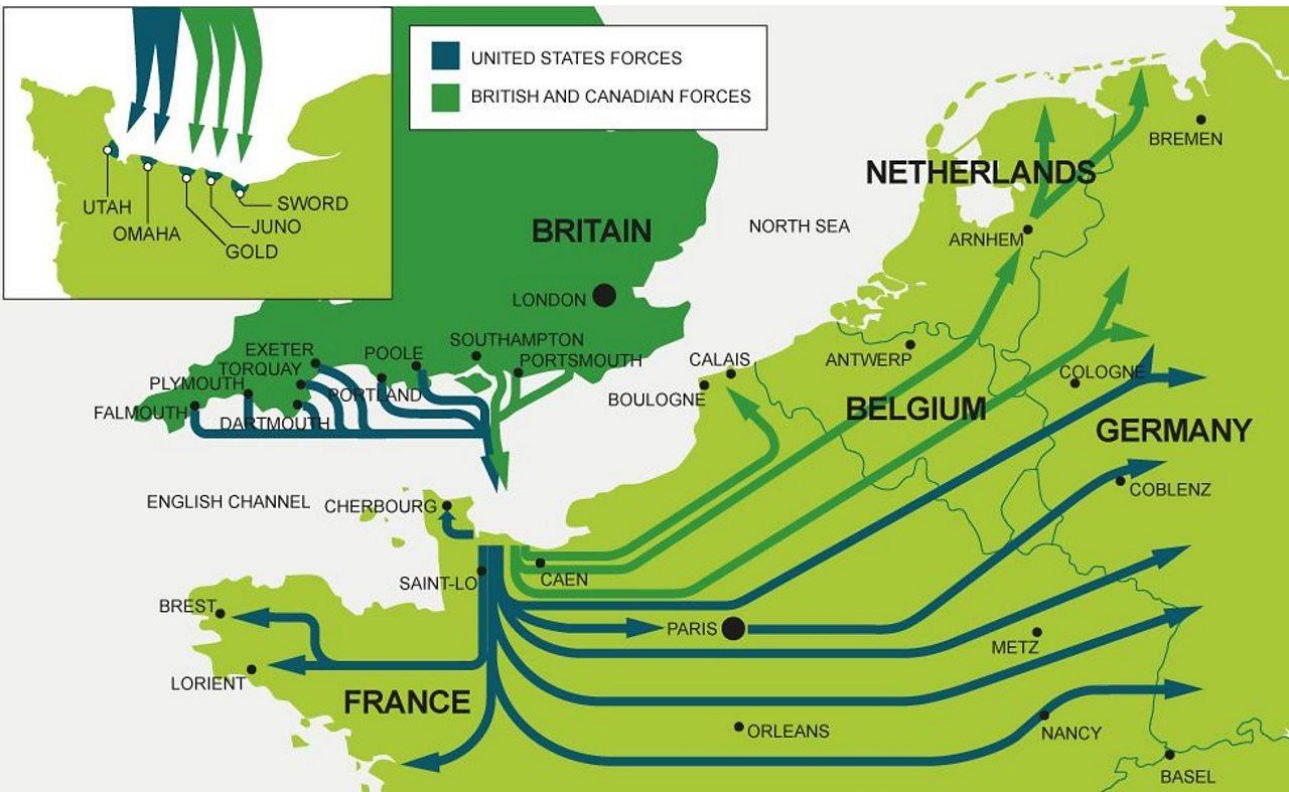
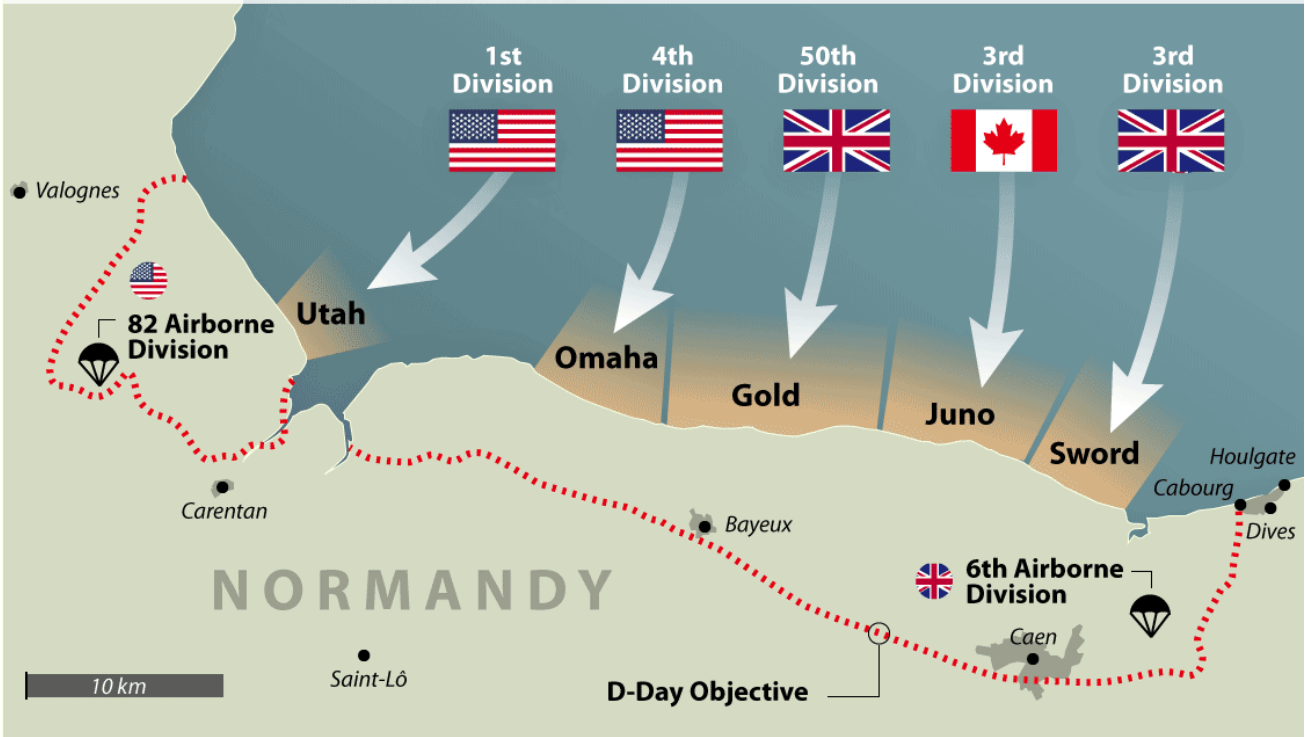
Big Question 3

Why was the Battle of the Atlantic so important?

<p>Intelligence</p>	<p>From late 1941 onwards, British code-breakers got better at decoding German codes. If they broke the German code, they knew where the U-boats were and so could guide the convoys away from groups of U-boats. Between May 1942 and May 1943, they managed to steer 105 out of 174 convoys across the Atlantic.</p>
<p>Aircraft</p>	<p>Long range bombers were converted to anti-submarine use by 1943 the USA was supplying large numbers of these aircraft and fitted with special radar and depth charges to be dropped from the planes.</p>
 <p>New weapons</p>	<p>Powerful explosives called Torpex were used in anti-submarine weapons.</p>
<p>Naval tactics</p>	<p>Training for commanders improved particularly by 1943. Destroyers with radar were created called sonar. They could pick up signals from U-boats.</p>
<p>Radio</p>	<p>This linked together all of the ships and aircraft which were fighting the U-boats. Radio also linked the ships and aircraft with their commanders, who used the latest intelligence information.</p>
 <p>Shipbuilding</p>	<p>The USA made huge numbers of Liberty ships. By 1943 the Allies were making more ships than the Germans were sinking.</p>
<p>People</p>	<p>The people of the British, American and Canadian merchant navies all ensured that supplies got through to Britain.</p>
<p>British spirit</p>	<p>The British had a “never say die” spirit – this was difficult to wear down for the Germans.</p>
 <p>Convoys</p>	<p>The Convoy system of ships was introduced 1939 and was an effective defence with proper support.</p>



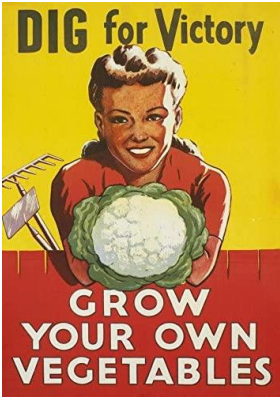

Big Question 4

How and why was D-Day successful for the Allies?



Big Question 5

What role did Northampton play during the Second World War?

Event	How Northampton helped/were effected
 Battle of Britain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment were lodged at Ashby St Ledgers - Corby Steel Works, the Royal Ordnance Depot and Grand Junction Canal were all camouflaged - Invention of radar
 The Blitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July 1941 – RAF Stirling bomber crashed in the centre of Northampton - August 1942 – air raid on Wellingborough (killed 6 and injured 55) - Two women set up the Kettering Rest House – charity home - Received more evacuees than any other country except Somerset
 Home Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's jobs included making tubes at Corby Steel Works, driving canal boats to deliver coal, and making munitions - Women attended training at colleges such as the Northamptonshire Agricultural Institute near Moulton - Took part in national campaigns such as 'Dig for Victory' and 'Make Do and Mend' - Northampton Salvage Week set up to collect spare metal
 D-Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northamptonshire Yeomanry took part, landing at Gold Beach - Had models of the Mulberry Harbours used - Corby Steel Works helped with Project Pluto - American Eighth Air Force used an airfield near Kettering

Big Question 6

How did the war end and what were the challenges facing Europe after VE Day?

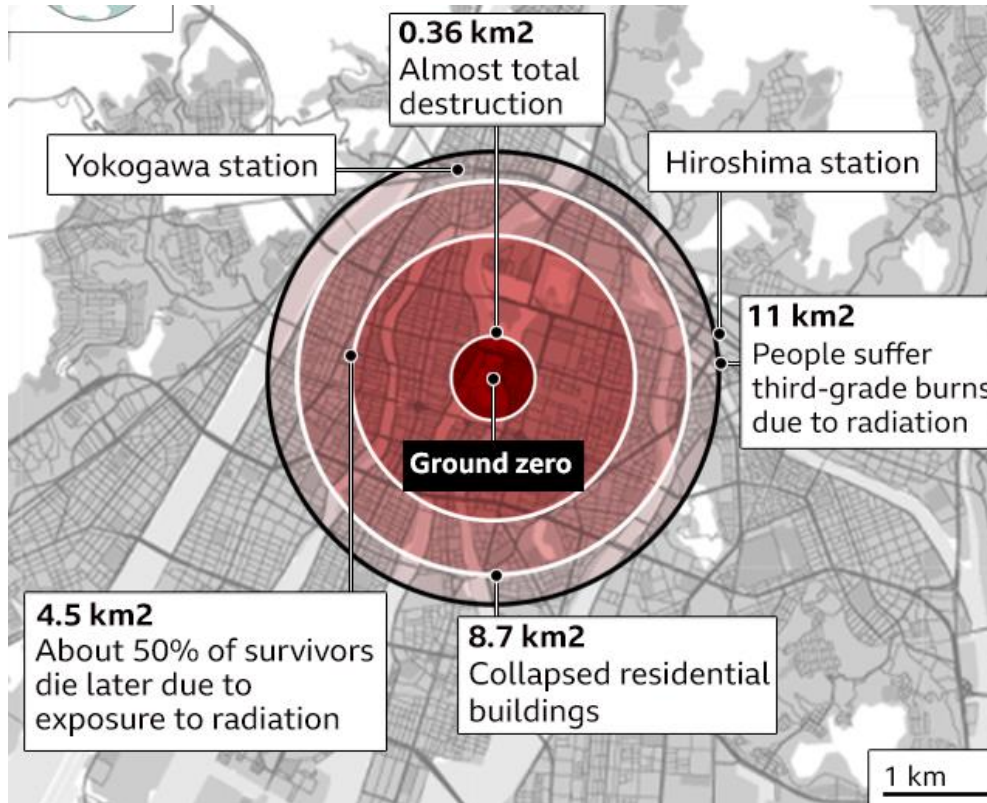


Problems facing Europe

<p>Rationing – this continued after the end of the war and some items were even added to rationing post-war.</p>	<p>Housing – 200,000 houses were completely destroyed leading to a housing shortage in urban areas.</p>	<p>Working women – some women were kept on and retrained, while others were let go after the end of the war.</p>
<p>Marriage – reunions were not always smooth as many partners separated due to infidelity.</p>	<p>Children – many evacuated children found it hard to return home.</p>	<p>Soldiers – while no soldiers were redeployed to the Pacific, demobilisation took years to complete.</p>

Big Question 7

To what extent was America justified in dropping the atomic bomb?



Justified	Not justified
50-80% of US soldiers were expected to die in the invasion.	America wanted clean targets so chose Hiroshima and Nagasaki to test the impact of their atomic weapons. 250,000 people died so the US could conduct a test.
The Japanese were planning to attack an island inhabited by US soldiers and civilians.	The USSR had entered the war by attacking Japanese troops in Manchuria – it was only a matter of time before the Japanese surrendered.
The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor without warning in 1941. The US had given them a warning and they had not heeded it.	The bombs did not just kill people on impact; radiation killed many thousands of people after the attacks.
The Japanese committed many horrific acts during the war, especially towards the Chinese.	The US did not want to 'waste' any atomic weapons dropping one in a remote area as a warning.

Glossary

Air raid shelter	Somewhere built, usually underground, where people can go to be safer from bombing.
Allied Powers	USA, USSR, Britain and others fighting Germany during World War Two.
Anti-Semitism	Prejudice or discrimination against Jewish people.
Artillery	Large guns or cannon, that fire over long distances.
Atomic bomb	Powerful weapon that utilised nuclear power which could destroy cities and used by the USA against Japan in 1945.
Auschwitz	Death camp where many thousands of Jews, gypsies, and other groups were murdered by the Nazis from 1942 to 1945.
Axis Powers	Alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan in World War Two.
Barbarossa	Codename for the German invasion of the USSR in 1941.
Battle of Britain	Campaign in 1940 to prevent German invasion of Britain that involved the RAF, Royal Navy and Army.
Blitz	The name given to the bombing of British cities by the German air force from 7 September 1940 to May 1941.
Blitzkrieg	The German for “lightning war”. A swift, sudden military attack using bomber aircraft to support fast moving tanks and motor vehicles.
British Expeditionary Force (BEF)	British forces which fought against the Germans in France in 1940.
Boycott	To refuse to trade or do business with.
Censorship	Stopping people from passing on certain information – in newspapers, radio broadcasts, private letters and even conversations.
Communism	Belief in a society that exists without different social classes and in which everyone is equal and all property is owned by the people.
Concentration camp	A prison camp where Jews and others were held in captivity and worked to death.
Conscription	Making people join the armed forces or do war work.
Convoy	A ship, fleet, or group of vehicles accompanied by a protecting escort.
D-Day	Allied invasion of German held France in June 1944.
Death camp	Also can an extermination camp, where Jews and others were systematically killed, usually by poison gas.
Dunkirk	Seaport in Northern France and site of the evacuation of British forces from 29 May – 4 June 1940.
Dynamo	Codename for the evacuation of British and French forces from Dunkirk in 1940.
Ethnic	Belonging to a particular racial, national or cultural group.
Evacuate	To evacuate a place is to clear people out of it.
Evacuee	Someone who is evacuated – sent away from a dangerous place.
Genocide	The deliberate destruction of a racial, religious, political, or ethnic group.

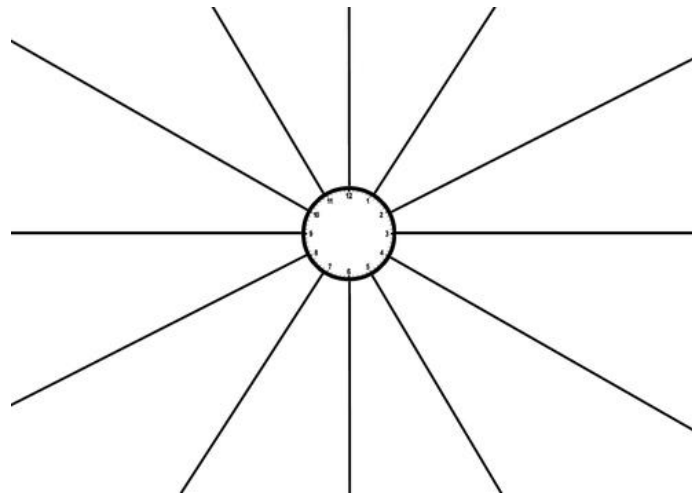
Ghetto	A poor section of a city that is inhabited by people mainly of the same race, religion, or social background, often because of discrimination.
Labour camp	A camp using slave labour, mostly Jews and prisoners of war, to produce materials for the German war effort.
Lebensraum	German word meaning "living space", land in eastern Europe that Hitler wished to see inhabited by Germans.
Luftwaffe	German Air Force.
Messerschmitt	Type of German aircraft.
Mulberry harbour	An artificial floating harbour built to supply the D-Day landing forces in 1944.
Nazi	A member of the German political party led by Adolf Hitler. The word is an abbreviation of the full name of the party, Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers' Party).
Pearl Harbor	Main US naval base, attacked by Japanese forces in December 1941.
PLUTO	(Pipe-lines under the Ocean) was the plan to build undersea oil pipelines between Britain and France to keep Allied forces supplied with fuel after the D-Day landings in 1944.
Pogrom	An organised massacre of a group of a people within a society.
Prejudice	A hostile point of view that is not based on fact.
Propaganda	False or misleading information given out to spread a certain point of view.
Radar	Short for Radio Detection And Ranging, a way of detecting objects a long way away in the dark or fog by bouncing radio waves off them and picking up a picture of their shape.
Rationing	Restricting how much of something people can have.
Red Army	Army of the Soviet Union.
Sealion	Codename for the planned invasion of Britain by German forces in 1940-41.
Special Operations Executive (SOE)	Special unit formed by the British to carry out attacks on German occupied Europe in World War Two.
Spitfire	British fighter plane.
SS	Abbreviation for the Schutzstaffel, formed as Hitler's personal bodyguard in 1926, who swore an oath of personal loyalty to him. They wore black and later increased in size until they formed whole army units and ran the concentration camps.
Treaty	A formal agreement between two or more countries.
U-Boat	English word used for a German submarine.
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or the Soviet Union, which existed from 1922-91; commonly known as Russia.
VE Day	Day marking Victory in Europe and the surrender of Germany on 8 May 1945.
VJ Day	Victory in Japan day which marked the surrender of Japan in 15 August 1945 following the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by atomic bombs.
Zyklon B	Cyanide-based gas used in the death camps.

How do I revise for end of topic assessments?

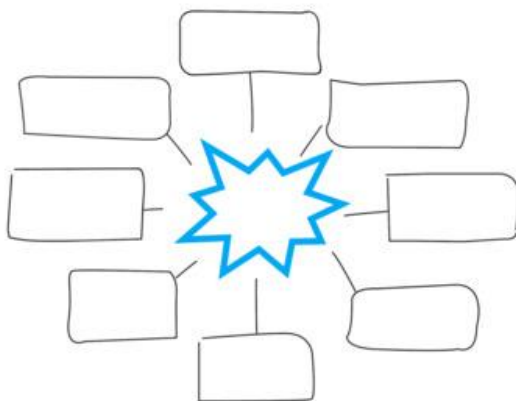


Flashcards – Use flashcards to practice key dates, terms and people. You could write a key date on one side, and turn it over and put the event. Alternatively, you could do match-ups, where a key person is written/drawn and then on another card what they have done is written down. You could then match-up the cards. Flashcards are also great for writing out knowledge questions on one side, and writing the answer on the other side.

Revision clocks –



Take an A3/A4 bit of paper and divide it into 12 sections. In each section write a big question and write 3 or 4 bullet points of the key knowledge for that question in the clock. Make your clocks colourful and highlight key words/dates/people.



Mind-maps – Write a topic in the middle and have 5-6 branches coming off around it with the key ideas. For example, you could have a mind-map on the Battle of Hastings, and your branches could include the key events, information about the different fighting techniques and the reasons why William won.

Brain dump – Get a blank piece of paper, and write down everything you know about the topic being studied. Give yourself 4-5 minutes to do this. When the time is up, in a different coloured pen, use your workbook and knowledge organiser to fill in any missing details.

Homework 1 – 1941-1945

Despite signing the Nazi-Soviet Pact in 1939, Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. This was codenamed Operation Barbarossa. This meant Germany was now fighting a war on two fronts, against Britain in the west and the Soviet Union in the east. Operation Barbarossa failed. There were mistakes in planning and tactics which meant Germany couldn't take advantage of early successes. The winter in the Soviet Union also made it difficult. Fuel froze in German tanks and vehicles, and German soldiers froze to death as they weren't given enough winter clothing. There were many casualties.

The USA had officially remained neutral when World War Two broke out. However, American President Franklin Roosevelt was keen to provide support to Britain. On 7 December 1941, a Sunday morning, Japan carried out a surprise attack on the American Naval base at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii.

The bombing followed several years of rising tension between Japan and the USA. The USA had imposed economic sanctions on Japan, which affected trade in goods such as oil and aircraft, and prevented Japan from becoming a bigger global power. Moreover, the USA did not expect Japan to attack them in Hawaii, which meant that they had relatively few defences in place at Pearl Harbor. Japan took advantage of this in the knowledge that, if they could destroy the base, it would mean that they could have control of the Pacific. The attack killed 2,335 American troops and damaged or destroyed 21 US Navy ships. On 8 December, Roosevelt spoke to Congress and declared war on Japan and Germany. This was one of the turning points in the war, resulting in American troops and supplies joining the war in Europe to support Britain.

The support of American forces was crucial for Britain. By early 1944, plans were being made to return to France to try and push Germany back. British, American and Canadian troops planned to land on beaches in Normandy with the aim of liberating France from German occupation. To try and deceive Germany, hundreds of fake wooden planes were built and placed near Dover, to convince German pilots flying over Britain that an invasion was going to take place at Calais. This plan was effective in helping troops land at Normandy with less resistance. The landings took place on 6 June 1944. This was known as D-Day. 160,000 troops landed on the Normandy beaches; over 4,000 lost their lives. The invasion was a success, and German forces were driven back. This was a key moment in the war and turned it in the Allies' favour.

Following the D-Day landings, Allied troops began to push Germany back from the west. At the same time, Soviet troops were advancing towards Germany from the east. By February 1945, the Allies were confident enough of victory that they met at Yalta to discuss how to rebuild Europe and recover from the effects of war. In April 1945, Allied troops entered Berlin. Hitler, realising that defeat was now inevitable, died by suicide on 12 April. Germany surrendered on 8 May. This is known as VE Day (Victory in Europe Day).

Questions

- 1) What was Operation Barbarossa?

- 2) Who had the USA been supporting during the war despite remaining neutral?

- 3) Which country attacked a US naval base in 1941?

- 4) Give one reason why this attack took place.

- 5) How did the Allies deceive the Germans in 1944?

- 6) Where did the Allied troops land in June 1944?

- 7) By what month and year were the Allied powers confident to discuss post-war Europe?

- 8) When is VE Day celebrated?

Homework 2 – True or false

Task – Identify whether the statements below are true or false. For the false statements, correct these in the box to the right of the statement.

Statement	True or false	Corrected statement
The codename for the German invasion of the USSR was Operation Dynamo.		
Franklin Roosevelt was the US President at the time of the Pearl Harbor attacks.		
The US attack on Pearl Harbor led to Japan joining the war.		
The Battle of the Atlantic was the shortest battle in the Second World War.		
The Germans used U-boats to try and sink British merchant ships throughout the war.		
There were 12 beaches used in the D-Day landings.		

Homework 3 – Revision

Task – Complete a revision activity to revise for your end of unit assessment. Use page 12 of the knowledge organiser to give you some ideas of how you could revise.

Wider Reading/Resources

The Second World War by Antony Beevor

The Blitz: The British Under Attack by Juliet Gardiner

The Battle of Britain by James Holland

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

World War Two: A Short History by Norman Stone

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden

The Extraordinary Life of Alan Turing by Michael Lee Richardson and Freda Chiu

The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier

Utterly Unbelievable: WWII in Facts by Adam Frost

