

TOPIC: Appeasement and World War 2 (1935-45) This exciting and popular period of history charts the road to WW2 through the period of 'appeasement' during the 1930s and then on to the war itself. You will study some of the major events of WW2, including Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain and the D-Day landings, and also life on the Home Front, including evacuation and Britain in the Blitz. At the end of the unit you will study events around the controversial dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Japan and the origins of the Cold War.



Timeline:		Key Words:	
1935	Hitler begins German rearmament and announces conscription	Auxiliary Services	Volunteer groups - helped regular firemen, ambulance drivers, etc
1936	Hitler orders German troops to re-militarise the Rhineland	Allies	United States of America, Great Britain and the USSR (Russia)
1938	<i>Anschluss</i> Germany/Austria united (April) & Munich Crisis (Sept)	Anderson	Pre-fabricated air raid shelter, put in garden, with corrugated steel roof
1938-39	German invasion of Sudetenland & Czechoslovakia (Sept & Mar)	AFS / ARP	Auxiliary Fire Service & Air Raid Precaution – volunteers in the Blitz
Sept. 1939	Germany invades Poland / Britain declares war on Germany	Appeasement	Policy of avoiding war by making concessions to an aggressor
1939-45	Battle of the Atlantic: German U-Boats attack British shipping	Atomic Bomb	Worlds first nuclear weapons dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki (Japan)
May 1940	Chamberlain resigns and Churchill becomes Prime Minister	Axis Powers	Germany, Italy and Japan (Hitler, Mussolini and Emperor Hirohito)
Spring 1940	Blitzkrieg in western Europe: Belgium, Denmark, Holland, France	Blitzkrieg	Literally “lightning war” using Stukas, Paratroopers & Panzer tanks
June 1940	Dunkirk ‘Operation Dynamo’ / France surrenders to Germany	Conscription	Compulsory military service, e.g. to be conscripted into the Army
Summer 1940	Battle of Britain / Operation Sea-Lion abandoned by Hitler	Convoy system	Organising merchant ships into groups under Royal Navy escort
1940/41	The Blitz: <i>Luftwaffe</i> bombs British industrial cities and London	Evacuation	To move civilians, usually women & children, to safety in the countryside
June 1941	Operation Barbarossa: Germany invades USSR (<i>Lebensraum</i>)	Home Front	People engaged in war activity at home, e.g. Women’s Land Army
Dec 1941	Pearl Harbour: Japanese surprise attack US Pacific fleet (Hawaii)	Home Guard	Volunteer army recruited for local and home defence in case of invasion
Aug 1942	Battle of Midway: Japanese aircraft carriers sunk by US carriers	Incendiary bombs	Special bombs designed to start fires in built-up areas, not explode
1942/43	Battle of Stalingrad fought between German and Russian troops	Isolationism	US policy where they withdrew from European affairs after WW1
Summer 1943	Battle of <i>El Alamein</i> (North Africa) and Italy surrenders to allies	League Of Nations	International peace-keeping organisation set up after WW1 (and failed)
June 1944	Allied ‘D-Day’ landings on Normandy coast / France liberated	<i>Luftwaffe</i>	The German Air Force - fought the RAF during the Battle of Britain
Jan 1945	Auschwitz (in Poland) is liberated by advancing Russian troops	Maginot Line	Strong line of defences built by the French to stop German attack
Feb 1945	Allied air power (RAF/USAAF) bombing of Dresden – fire storm!	Rationing	Limit the amount of food, water & other commodities in wartime
8th May 1945	VE Day – Germany surrenders after Hitler’s suicide in Berlin	Spitfire	Famous WW2 fighter plane - helped the RAF win Battle of Britain
14 th Aug 1945	VJ Day – Japan surrenders after USA drops the Atomic Bombs	U-Boat	Literally “undersea boat” or submarine as used by the Germans

Key People:		Key People:	
What they did?	What they did?	What they did?	What they did?
Neville Chamberlain	Prime Minister of Britain during appeasement period	Field Marshall Montgomery	British General who won the Battle of <i>El Alamein</i>
Sir Winston Churchill	Prime Minister of Britain and iconic WW2 leader	Benito Mussolini	‘Duce’ (dictator) of Italy & Hitler’s ally in the Axis
General Eisenhower	Supreme Commander of Allied Forces D-Day (1944)	Franklin D. Roosevelt	President of the USA throughout most of WW2
Arthur ‘Bomber’ Harris	Head of Bomber Command – ordered Dresden bombing	Joseph Stalin	Ruthless dictator of the USSR during WW2 (allied leader)
Adolf Hitler	Fuhrer (supreme leader) of Germany during WW2	Harry Truman	President of USA - ordered dropping of Atomic Bombs