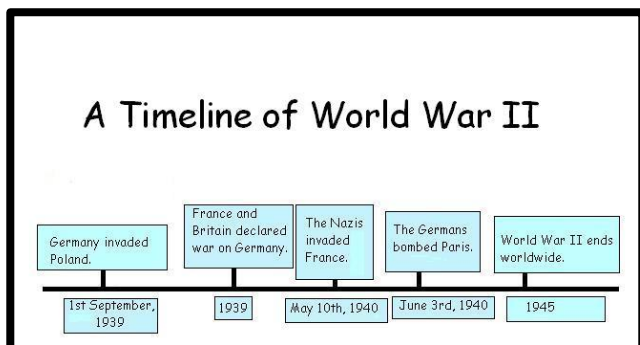## When, where and why did WW2 occur?

The Causes of World War II — The events that led to war

March 1936	Germany sends troops into the Rhineland (area on the French-German border) going against the treaty of Versailles. Britain and France do nothing.
March 1938	Germany joins with Austria, again against the treaty of Versailles. Britain and France do nothing.
September 1938	Hitler puts pressure on Czechoslovakia. Britain and France finally decide to get involved. A deal is made at Munich. • Hitler agrees not to take over any more land • Britain & France agree that Germany may take over part of Czechoslovakia
March 1939	Hitler ignores the deal he made at Munich, and takes over the rest of Czechoslovakia. Britain & France humiliated.
August 1939	To avoid the possibility of a war on two fronts, Hitler makes a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union. The Nazi-Soviet Pact.
September 1st 1939	Germany invades Poland
September 3rd 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany
April 1940	German troops invade Denmark and Norway
May 1940	Germany invades the Netherlands and France. German blitzkrieg (lightning-war) has enormous success. France taken over in 6 weeks!

World War II Allied/Axis

A Timeline of World War II

Germany invaded Poland. — 1st September, 1939
France and Britain declared war on Germany. — 1939
The Nazis invaded France. — May 10th, 1940
The Germans bombed Paris. — June 3rd, 1940
World War II ends worldwide. — 1945

World War 2 took place between 1939 and 1945. It began on 1st September 1939.

Neville Chamberlain was the Prime Minister when war broke out, but Winston Churchill took over. Adolf Hitler was the leader of Germany.

Germany intended to gain power and land and began to invade other countries to achieve this.

There were two main sides – The Allies and the Axis countries – but many countries were involved. Some countries were neutral during WW2.

The armed forces wore uniforms to support their roles and had specific tasks: Navy, Army and Air Force and veterans were used in the Home Guard.

The Home Front was what the population who weren't involved in combat were expected to do the support the war. Their contribution was huge. This changed the role of women.

During WW2 a system of rationing was implemented in order to cover food shortages caused by disruption to imports.

People kept themselves safe during bombing by using air raids shelters. Children were also evacuated away from the cities to safer areas.

The Battle of Britain was a turning point in the war.

Anne Frank wrote a famous diary about her experiences during the Holocaust.

VE (Victory in Europe) Day marked the end of WW2.

Vocabulary Dozen

Allies	Countries cooperating with others for military or other purposes. Britain, France and Poland became allies at the start of WW2.
Anti-Semitism	Hostility towards or discrimination against Jewish people.
Axis	The Axis powers, Germany, Italy and Japan, were the nations that fought against the Allies in WW2.
Evacuated	To be sent away from a place of danger. In WW2 children were sent away from cities to the country.
Gas mask	A mask to protect the wearer from breathing in airborne pollutants and toxic gases from German bombs.
Holocaust	The Holocaust was the mass murder of some 6 million European Jews and millions of others by the German Nazis during World War II.
Home Front	The home front refers to the activities of the people in their home countries, which support the military during a war.
Invade	To enter a country by force.
Propaganda	Propaganda is a way of spreading ideas and influencing people.
Ration	A fixed, daily amount of food when food is scarce.
The Blitz	A German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 and 1941.
V.E. Day	Victory in Europe Day – a day to celebrate the surrender of German troops in Europe.

Ideas to think about…

What happened to the cities that were destroyed during the war?

How long did rationing last?

What happened to Germany after WW2?

What is VJ day and when did it happen?

What was the role of USA in WW2?