

ANCIENT EGYPTIANS



Egypt
(Africa)

Timeline

6000 B.C.	5000 B.C.	4500 B.C.	3500 B.C.	3000 B.C.	2500 B.C.	1500 B.C.	1325 B.C.	332 B.C.	30 B.C.
People settle near the River Nile	Farmed wheat, barley and cattle	Use of sails for the first time	First use of hieroglyphics	Buildings of mud brick	Sphinx and Giza Pyramids	Valley of the Kings tombs built	King Tutankhamun buried	Alexander the Great rules	Death of Cleopatra

Key Vocabulary

canopic jar	Jars with intestines, stomach, lungs and liver - all of which were thought to be needed in the afterlife.
cartouche	An oval containing hieroglyphics with a horizontal line underneath indicating a royal name.
hieroglyphics	A writing system where picture symbols stood for meanings or sounds. It meant 'sacred carving'.
irrigation	Using the Nile, Egyptians would use annual flooding to channel water to dry areas to help crops grow.
mummy	A body prepared for burial according to ancient Egyptian practice.
sarcophagus	A stone coffin adorned with a sculpture or inscription containing a mummy.
scarab	The use of the common scarab beetle was often used as a symbol for rebirth.
tomb	A chamber or vault to protect the dead, the most elaborate built within pyramids or underground.
papyrus	A type of plant grown in abundance in ancient Egypt turned into a paper-like material for writing.
pyramids	Over 130 giant pyramids were created as tombs for pharaohs, mostly built west of the River Nile.

DID YOU KNOW?

The River Nile is about 6,670 km (4,160 miles) in length and is the longest river in Africa and in the world. Fertile soil along the banks of the river were used to produce food for themselves and their animals.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Gods

Amun - King of gods (head of a ram).

Anubis - God of mummification and priests often wore masks of Anubis during ceremonies (head of a jackal).

Bast - Goddess of protection and of household entertainment (head of a cat).

Sekmet - God of war and battle (head of a lion).

Horus - God of the sky (head of a falcon)



Afterlife

Ancient Egyptians believed that when they died, they would make a journey to another world where they would lead a new life. They would need all the things they had used when they were alive, so families would put those things in their graves. Egyptians paid vast amounts of money to have their bodies properly preserved. Those who were poor were buried in the sand whilst the rich were buried in a tomb.

Farming

Egyptians grew many crops, the most important being grain used to make bread, porridge and beer. They also grew vegetables and used irrigation to their advantage.

FAMOUS FIGURES



King Tutankhamun (1341 B.C.)

Known for his intact tomb discovered in the Valley of Kings in 1922 by Howard Carter (English archaeologist). Known now simply as 'King Tut', he took the throne aged 9 and died aged 19. His tomb was filled with precious jewellery, artefacts, gold, a mural of his journey to the afterlife and his now famous death mask and sarcophagus.

Ramses III (1155 B.C.)

Best known for defending his country in three great wars, twice against the advancing Libyans and once against the Sea People.

Cleopatra VII (69 B.C.)

She reigned as the queen of Egypt and inspired a Shakespeare play and several movies. She was part of the Macedonian dynasty and became romantically involved with Roman leaders Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony. In a male dominated society, her political ambition and power led to her legacy.



ANCIENT GREEKS



Greece
(Europe)

Timeline

3000 B.C.	1200 B.C.	776 B.C.	770 B.C.	750 B.C.	600 B.C.	500 B.C.	431 B.C.	334 B.C.	146 B.C.
Minoan Civilization begins on Crete	The Trojan Wars	First Olympic Games	First Greek alphabet created	Greeks set sail to set up colonies	First Greek coins are used	Democracy used in Athens	The Peloponnesian Wars begin	Alexander the Great conquests	Greece becomes part of the Roman Empire

Key Vocabulary

acropolis	A large hill where city residents sought shelter and safety in times of war. Also, a meeting place for discussing issues.
amphitheatre	Outdoor theatre with seats on all sides where singing, dancing and even sacrificing took place.
chiton	The chiton was a single sheet used as clothing wrapped around the body.
democracy	A system of government in which citizens are able to vote in order to make decisions.
Olympics	Athletes competing against each other. Began in Olympia and included religious festivals in honour of Zeus.
Parthenon	A former temple on the Athenian Acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena.
philosophy	The practice of asking big questions with no clear/single answer. It means the 'love of wisdom'.
pyxis	A cylindrical box with a separate lid used to store trinkets, ornaments or cosmetics.
Trojan Horse	Wooden horse constructed by Greeks to obtain entry into the city of Troy. Soldiers hid inside and then sprang out!
vase	Pots made on a potters' wheel often painted with aspects of daily life from which historians have learned from.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Peloponnesian Wars took place between the city-states of Sparta and Athens between 431-404 B.C. The Athenians stood for democracy but lost to the Spartans, leaving Athens bankrupt and destroyed.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Gods

Aphrodite - Goddess of love, rising from the sea, enchanting anyone who sees her.

Athena - Daughter of Zeus. Goddess of the city and farming. Her tree is the olive and the bird is the owl.

Hades - Brother of Zeus and god of the underworld, ruling over the dead and god of wealth. He wears a helmet which makes him invisible.

Hermes - Son of Zeus. Messenger of the gods with winged sandals making him the fastest of the gods. Carries a staff.

Poseidon - Brother of Zeus and the second most powerful god. God of the sea who has a three-headed spear (trident) which can shake the earth.

Zeus - Lord of the sky and the rain god who hurls thunderbolts at those who displease him. The most powerful of the gods.

Government, Democracy and Slavery

Men were classed as the only citizens and they could democratically vote. Women and slaves were not allowed. A jury of 500 citizens acted as jury and decided if anyone was guilty of law-breaking (punishments included death). They could also vote on who they disliked and could get others banished from their city.



FAMOUS FIGURES

Archimedes (287-212 B.C.)

Mathematician and philosopher who found a way of measuring water by placing an object in it and seeing how far it rose (hydrostatics). He jumped out of the bath and shouted 'Eureka!' meaning 'I found it!'

Alexander the Great (356-332 B.C.)

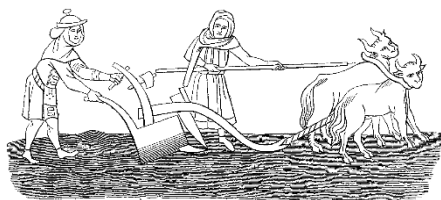
King of Macedonia who conquered Greece, Persia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley, extending the empire as far away as India.

Hippocrates (460-370 B.C.)

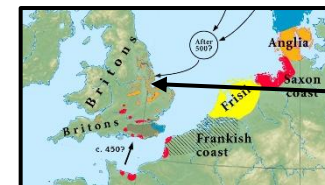
A famous doctor known as the 'father of Western medicine'. Doctors today still take the 'Hippocratic Oath' promising to be good at their job and do their best for patients.

Pericles (494-429 B.C.)

Athenian general who led Athens during the war with Sparta. He made sure that the poor as well as the rich citizens could take part in government and valued art and education.



ANGLO-SAXONS



England
(Europe)

Timeline

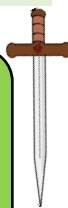
410	497	575	586	597	757	793	871	1016	1066
Romans left Britain leaving it unguarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Anglia was formed	The Kingdom of Mercia is formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England	Vikings attack Lindisfarne	Alfred the Great rules	Canute the Great rules as first Viking	Battle of Hastings Normans defeat the Saxons

Key Vocabulary

Bayeux Tapestry	70m long embroidered cloth depicting the events leading up to the Norman conquest.
Beowulf	An Old English epic story consisting of 3182 alliterative lines written in c975-1010.
Lindisfarne	A monastery in northern England where Vikings first landed and attacked from Scandinavia.
lyre	A five to seven stringed musical instrument used in northern Europe.
mead	An alcoholic beverage made from honey, water and yeast, often with spices and herbs.
Offa's Dyke	A larger linear earthwork on the border of Wales and England ordered by King Offa.
runes	Alphabet consisting of between 26-33 letters used to write Old English.
Sutton Hoo helmet	A decorated Anglo-Saxon bronze helmet excavated in 1939 buried around 625.
thatch	The craft of building a roof with dry vegetation such as reeds and straw.
wattle-and-daub	The weaving of small wooden branches with mud, straw, horse hair and dung to create walls.

DID YOU KNOW?

A famous Anglo-Saxon archaeological site is Sutton Hoo, where a whole ship was used as a grave! An Anglo-Saxon king was buried inside the ship along with some of his possessions, such as his helmet and sword.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?

The Romans left Britain in 410 due to fierce tribes attacking Italy and every soldier was needed back at home to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left the country vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. The conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall (an area of south-west England).



The Vikings

The Anglo-Saxons were under constant attack from Vikings who travelled from Scandinavia and invaded towns and villages in Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man, finally conquering York (Jorvik) in 866. They finally defeated the Anglo-Saxons as the Normans (Norsemen) from Normandy (France) invaded and won the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Normans in France were originally Vikings from Scandinavia!

FAMOUS FIGURES

St Augustine (c.530-604)

Augustine of Canterbury was a Christian missionary sent from Rome to convert people from Anglo-Saxon paganism to Christianity. He was considered to be responsible for the widespread adoption of the Christian faith throughout England.

King Aethelbert (c.550-616)

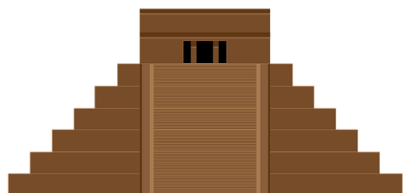
King of Kent who created the first Germanic law code in the early 7th Century and became the first English king to convert to Christianity due to Augustine's mission to convert people from paganism.

King Offa (c730-796)

King of Mercia, and of most of England in the mid-8th Century. Historians regard him as the most powerful Anglo-Saxon king until Alfred the Great.

King Alfred the Great (849-899)

Fought the Vikings and defeated them in the Battle of Edington (878) and thus made an agreement with them (Danelaw). He was known for improving the standard of living, legal and military systems as well as education.



MAYAN CIVILIZATION



Central America

Timeline

1100 B.C.	800 B.C.	400 B.C.	300 B.C.	100 B.C.	600	800	900	1502
The first hunter-gatherers settle on the pacific coast	Village farming and trade become established	First solar calendars invented	Cities become centres for trade and Kings begin to rule	First pyramids are built	Cities start expanding quickly	Building of stepped pyramid of Chichen-Itza	Decline of Mayan cities	First contact with Europeans is made

Key Vocabulary

astronomy	The Mayans were able to predict solar eclipses and used observatories and shadow-casting devices.
calendar	These were circular and charted the movements of the sun, moon, stars and planets, with 365 days in a year.
hieroglyphs	They used about 800 symbols to create writing, often on folded pages forming a book (codex).
Kings/Queens	The King/Queen was thought to be given the right to rule by the gods. Each city had a palace for them.
maize	The staple food of the Mayans which was so important that they even had a maize god.
numbers	Using a base 20 system (we use base 10), they used dots and bars to create numbers and had a symbol for zero.
pok-a-tok	A game where large rubber balls were aimed at stone hoops. Losers were sometimes sacrificed to the gods!
pyramids	Built with a temple at the top to give sacrifices to the gods, others were built for the gods themselves.
sacrifice	Humans and animals were used as a blood offering to gods, mostly war prisoners by decapitation or heart removal.
stelae	Stone monuments glorifying Kings and record his deeds, although early examples were of mythical scenes.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mayans tied boards to their babies' heads to produce a flat forehead. They also tried to make their babies cross-eyed! Big noses were also considered beautiful.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Mayan Dress

Commoners and slaves wore plain loincloths, but the elite added feathers, animal skins or gems. Noblemen covered their lower half with a colourful garment and wore large, elaborate headdresses. Women wore skirts and tunics. Footwear was simple, usually being barefoot or sandals.

Trade

Merchants drove their human caravans along roads, down rivers and around coasts to trade with fellow Mayans and other Mesoamericans. The geography was so varied that they relied on trade to get the things they needed off each other, from maize, fish and salt to stingray spines (used for bloodletting) and valuable stones such as jade and obsidian.

What happened to the Mayans?

Around 900, many cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned but states in the uplands of the Yucatan peninsula continued to flourish until the arrival of the Spanish in 1502. One belief is that the Toltecs and the Aztecs took over with their own empires but later, when the Spanish arrived, they brought disease and forced them to give up their gods and become Christians.

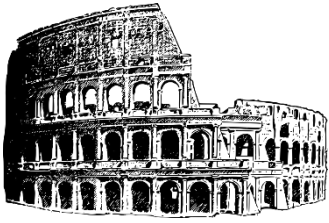
FAMOUS FIGURES

Mayan Gods

Some were in human form, others in animal but the most supreme god was Itzamna, the creator god, lord of day and night and ruler of the heavens. Many looked after the weather or crops such as Chac, the rain god and Kinich-Ahau the sun god. Priests would perform ceremonies (including sacrifices) to please them and Kings were thought to turn into gods after they died. They believed the world was divided into three parts (Heaven, Earth and the Underworld), linked together by a giant world tree.

Palenque Rulers

Archaeologists can name 17 rulers of the city-state of Palenque from 431-800. The most famous was Pakal I, also known as Pakal the Great, who ruled from 615-683. He began his rule at the age of just 12 and constructed some of Palenque's finest buildings and founded a great dynasty. His funeral mask was carved from stunning Jade.



ROMAN BRITAIN



Britain
Roman
Empire

Timeline

753 B.C.	264-146 B.C.	58-51 B.C.	54 B.C.	43	61	122	200	480-550
Rome was founded	Three Punic Wars between the Romans and Carthaginians	The Gallic Wars take place	Julius Caesar attempts to invade Britain	Invasion ordered by Claudius is successful	Iceni revolt led by Boudicca in Britain	Hadrian's Wall built to separate Scotland and England	Christianity introduced	Arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain

Key Vocabulary

aqueduct	Long stone waterways that delivered fresh water to cities, flowing into a holding tank (castellum).
Basilica	A type of church given special privileges by the pope. Also used for public meetings and a law court.
baths	Using a central heating system, the Romans would create public bathing areas using terracotta bricks.
Colchester	Was the Roman capital of Britain until it was destroyed under Boudica's rebellion.
Colosseum	A huge oval amphitheatre built in Rome holding approx. 60,000 people to watch gladiators battle.
Empire	Controlled from Rome, the Empire included most of Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa.
Hadrian's Wall	A defensive wall separating Scotland and England with forts every 5 miles, stretching for 80 miles.
gladiator	An armed combatant who entertained audiences in violent battles with gladiators, criminals and animals.
roads	The Romans built the first roads in Britain (over 9000km of them) and were distinctively straight.
toga	Romans often wore large, white woollen pieces of fabric carefully draped over the body.

DID YOU KNOW?

Coins were used to trade but were also ways for the emperor to tell people about the great things they did (or wanted people to think they did). Coins could be minted that showed pictures of them with their name or other words and symbols on it.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Roman Towns

There were all laid out in the same way with straight streets shaped in a grid pattern, with buildings like a bath house, temple, aqueducts and an amphitheatre. They also had forums, which were big open squares where people could set up stalls to sell things.

The Iceni

In 60, a rebellion started in the SE of England, led by Queen Boudicca, widow of Prasutagus, king of the Iceni. The Iceni, who felt betrayed by the new emperor, Nero, attacked Colchester, London and then St Albans, leaving between approx. 80,000 people dead. Paulinus led his army back to England and met Boudicca's Iceni forces at the Battle of Watling Street. Despite being massively outnumbered, the superior battle skills of the Roman army won and the Iceni forces were defeated allowing the Romans to take firm control of the southern areas of England.

What Happened to the Romans?

The Empire became too big to rule and in 285, Emperor Diocletian split the Empire in two halves, East and West. The Western Empire ended in 476, and the Eastern Empire carried on until 1453. Britain was part of the Western Empire, but the Romans left it in 410 AD because the soldiers and leaders who ruled Britain were needed to defend other parts of the Empire.

FAMOUS FIGURES

Julius Caesar (100 B.C. – 44 B.C.)

His defining moment was when he crossed the Rubicon, a river that bordered Rome, and led an army into Rome to take over the government. He won many battles but was only emperor for a year until he was killed by his political enemies on the Ides of March (15th March). He invaded Britain twice but did not set up any forts.

Caesar Augustus (63 B.C. - 14)

Seen as the first real Roman Emperor when he took power in 27 BC, he was Julius Caesar's adopted son. That's why 27 BC is seen as the true date of the start of the Roman Empire.

Claudius (10 B.C. – 54)

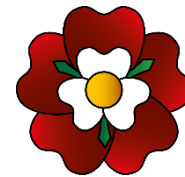
Led to the successful invasion of Britain and was responsible for building lots of new roads and aqueducts throughout the Empire.

Constantine (272-337)

The first Christian Emperor who tried to unite a split Empire



THE TUDORS



England
and Wales
(Europe)

Timeline

1485	1509	1528	1534	1542	1558	1577	1585	1591	1603
Battle of Bosworth / Henry VII King of England	Henry VIII reigns	Henry VIII sacks Cardinal Wolsey	Henry VIII forms the Church of England	Mary Queen of Scots lays claim to the throne	Elizabeth I Queen of England	William Drake sails around the world	England and Spain at war	First performance of a Shakespeare play	James of Scotland first Stuart King

Key Vocabulary

exploration	The lure of wealth led to explorers searching for new routes to Asia and new discoveries along the way.
gallows	A wooden structure with steps leading to a platform where criminals would be hung in front of an audience.
The Globe	A three-story, circular Elizabethan theatre in London built by Shakespeare's playing company in 1559.
Hampton Court	A large royal palace in London built for Cardinal Wolsey in 1515 but eventually handed to Henry VIII.
lute	A plucked string instrument favoured by Henry VII who passed the enjoyment of playing to his children.
monarch	A sovereign head of state (king, queen or emperor).
peasants	Most would only afford one meal a day, finding work was tough and the average life expectancy was 35.
Protestant	Being Roman Catholic was most common in Tudor times until a German monk spread the idea of a different way.
punishment	Punishments for crimes could range from hanging, beheading, pressing, burning and boiling!
recorder	Wooden instrument with a mouthpiece played like a whistle, loved and played often by Henry VIII.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tudor towns and villages were not particularly clean and tidy. People threw rubbish in the street and even emptied the loo there! It was a very smelly time to exist!

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

The Tudor Rose

The Tudor rose was created when Henry VII brought an end to the Wars of the Roses (an ongoing battle between two royal groups - the House of Lancaster and the House of York). He joined the White Rose of York with the Red Rose of Lancaster, creating the Union Rose (or Tudor Rose), which is still used as the floral emblem of England today!

Tudor Houses

Tudor houses are very distinctive and many can still be seen today. The houses had a wooden frame with walls made from "wattle and daub" - a building material consisting of wooden strips covered with mud, clay and wet soil. The walls were then painted white giving what is known as "the black and white effect".

Jobs

Jobs that people would have had in Tudor times include being a butcher, baker, weaver, fishmonger (catching and selling fish), tailor, blacksmith, shoemaker and washerwoman.

Music

Music was very popular in Tudor times, and it was a large part of entertainment both in the royal court as well as for the peasants. It also meant that somebody from any class - rich or poor - who was good enough at an instrument could have the chance to play for the king or queen! Musical instruments played include the viol, hautboy, harpsichord and spinet.

FAMOUS FIGURES

Henry VIII (1491-1547)

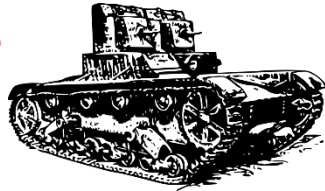
Most famous for having 6 wives with their fate remembered best by the rhyme 'Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.' His second wife Anne Boleyn gave him a daughter (who later became Queen Elizabeth I) before he executed her in 1536. He broke away from the Catholic Church claiming himself at the head of the Church of England but was also well-known for being athletic, good-looking, intelligent, speaking many languages and playing musical instruments.

Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

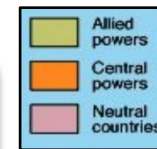
Initially the Catholic Church said Henry and Anne were not lawfully married so she should not be Queen and Mary Queen of Scots should be Queen instead. Elizabeth found out several plots to overthrow her and had Mary executed in 1587. In 1588 the King of Spain sent the Spanish Armada (a fleet of ships) to take England. Elizabeth won the war and it was seen as a great victory. She had no children of her own so the throne went to King James of Scotland (Stuarts begin and the Tudors end).

William Shakespeare (1564-1610)

The famous writer and actor performed several times for Elizabeth I and wrote many famous plays including Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth and Hamlet.



WORLD WAR I



WW1
Countries
(Europe)

Timeline

1914	1914	1914	1915	1916	1917	1917	1918	1918
War declared on July 28th	Trenches dug by Germans in September	An unofficial truce declared on Christmas Eve	Germans sink a cruise ship called the Lusitania	Battle of the Somme	USA declares war on Germany on April 6th	Russians leave the war on December 17th	The 2 nd Battle of Marne - Allies win	War ends officially on 11 th November at 11am

Key Vocabulary

air force	Invented by the Wright brothers in 1903, planes played a vital role by the end of the war.
animals	Horses, donkeys and camels carried food, water, ammunition and medical supplies.
bayonet	A type of rifle with an attached knife at the end for close and distance combat.
gas mask	Protection against poisonous gas attacks (often a lethal chlorine gas) in the trenches.
navy	Allied forces had hundreds of ships to protect British and the Empire's coasts.
poetry	Famous poets wrote about the war at the time such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon.
poppy	Used since 1921 as part of Remembrance Day, they grew back on many fields after the war.
propaganda	Posters and leaflets distributed throughout the war to persuade people to join the army.
rations	Ration cards were given out and only a certain amount of food per family was allowed.
zeppelins	Giant airships used to first bomb London in May 1915 but vulnerable to storms and allied attacks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 16 million people died during World War I. One of the largest battles of World War I was the Battle of the Somme in France. It lasted from 1 July to 18 November 1916. Around one million people were killed or wounded during that time.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Who and Why?

Allies: Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan and USA
Central Powers: Germany, Austria, Hungary, The Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

65 million soldiers fought and 16 million lost their lives.

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and Germany threatened to invade France. Within a week, all of Europe was involved.

Trench Warfare

Long lines of trenches (walkways) were dug deep into the ground where soldiers could base themselves and fight from. Much of the war was fought between two opposing trenches with the land between them known as 'No Man's Land'. The Western Front was over 400km of trenches stretching from Belgium through NE France.

The End of the War

Allied forces gained ground quickly through 1918 and the Germans retreated. An Armistice agreement was made (a truce to bring about peace) on 11th day of the 11th month at 11am and submarines, canons, machine guns and train carriages were surrendered, including all prisoners of war. They also had to pay war damages.

FAMOUS FIGURES

Franz Ferdinand (1863-1914)

Archduke of Austria, whose assassination led to Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia at the beginning of World War I.

Herbert Henry Asquith (1852-1928)

Prime Minister from 1908 to 1916, during the beginning of World War I.

David Lloyd George (1863-1945)

Prime Minister from 1916-1922, during the end of World War I.

Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941)

Leader of Germany during World War I.

Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)

President of the United States during World War I, who helped to draw up the Treaty of Versailles which agreed the terms of peace.

King George V (1865-1936)

King during World War I, who declared the first Remembrance Day in 1918.



WORLD WAR II



Timeline

1939	1939	1940	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1945	1945
On 1 st September Germany invades Poland	On 3 rd September England declares war on Germany	10 th May Winston Churchill replaces Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister	12 th May German forces enter France	USA declares war on Italy & Germany	British troops win back North Africa	Italy surrenders to the Allies	6 th June D-Day landings on Normandy beaches	Hitler commits suicide	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on 6 th August	Japan surrenders on 2 nd September and the end of war declared

Key Vocabulary

Anderson shelter	Half buried in the ground and with earth on top, they protected people from bomb blasts.
blackout	All windows and doors had to be covered at night to stop enemy aircraft seeing house lights.
Blitz	The sustained aerial bombing against Britain by Nazis. Blitz means lightning in German.
evacuee	Designed to protect people, especially children, by moving them to areas of less risk.
gas mask	Issued to all civilians at the start of the war, gas masks were used to protect from gas attacks.
Kristallnacht	On 9-10th November 1939, Nazis torched synagogues and vandalised Jewish homes.
Nazis	Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party controlled Germany between 1933 and 1945.
rations	Ration cards were given out and only a certain amount of food/clothes per family was allowed.
star of David	Jews throughout Europe were forced to wear the star of David to clearly identify themselves.
swastika	An ancient symbol of a cross with arms at a right angle, used as an emblem for the Nazi Party.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Battle of Britain, between the German Luftwaffe and the Royal Air Force, was the first ever battle to be fought only in the air (known as dog fighting). It was made up of lots of air battles that lasted from 10 July-31 October 1940.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Who and Why?

Allies: Great Britain, France, Soviet Union, China and USA

Axis Powers: Germany, Italy and Japan

70 million people lost their lives (24 million from the Soviet Union).

France and England declared war on Germany after they invaded Poland and the USA joined the war effort after the Japanese bombed the American fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941.

The Jewish Community

Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust. Racist in his views, Hitler blamed Jewish people for Germany losing World War I and claimed they were dangerous to German people and society.

Home Guard

Set up in May 1940 as Britain's 'last line of defence' against German invasion, members of this 'Dad's Army' were usually men above or below the age of conscription and those unfit or ineligible for front line military service. 1.5 million enrolled and supported the war effort through bomb disposal, manning anti-aircraft artillery and readied for invasion.

FAMOUS FIGURES

Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)

British Prime Minister from 1937-1940; Chamberlain was Prime Minister when Britain declared war on Germany.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

British Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945, then again from 1951 to 1955. He is famous for his speeches that inspired people to keep on fighting.

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945)

German dictator during World War II, and leader of the Nazi political party

Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)

Italian dictator during World War II, and leader of the Fascists. Joined forces with Hitler as one of the Axis powers.

Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945)

United States President during most of WWII.

Joseph Stalin (1878-1953)

Leader of the Soviet Union during World War II

Hideki Tojo (1884-1948)

Japanese leader and military general