

# World War II Knowledge Organizer

September 1, 1939

September 3, 1939

January 1940

May-June 1940

July 1940

October 1940

September 2, 1945

Germany invades Poland.

Britain and France declare war on Germany – World War II begins.

Rationing starts across the United Kingdom.

British soldiers are evacuated from Dunkirk. France surrenders to Germany. Germany invades much of Western Europe.

Germany launches air raids on Great Britain called “The Blitz.” Italy and Japan sign an agreement with Germany and join The Axis Powers.

Germany continues to bomb British cities.

World War II ends.

## Rationing

Worried that the country would run out of food, the British (UK) government introduced rationing. This meant that people could only buy small amounts of foods – and there wasn't much choice. Everyone had a ration book to keep track of what they bought.

People had to make their food last a lot longer and had to come up with unusual recipes because they could not get the ingredients they needed.

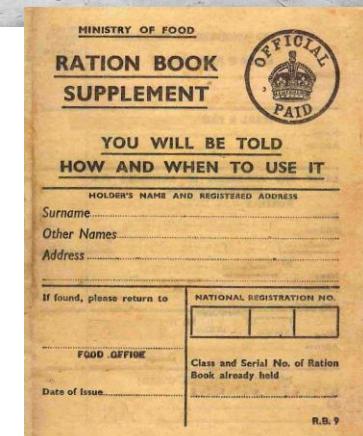
There were no bananas during the war and people had to eat powdered eggs and milk.

## The Blitz / Battle of Britain

The Luftwaffe, German's air force, began what is called “The Blitz” with severe bombing (often at night) on towns and cities across Britain. The English response was termed “The Battle of Britain” where the RAF (Royal Air Force) fought back.

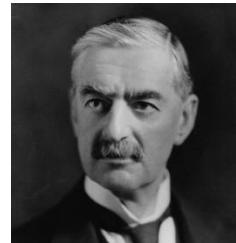
An air raid siren would sound to let people know when a bombing was about to start and again when the bombing was over.

To keep safe, people hid in air raid shelters. The bombings severely damaged cities and many people's homes were damaged.



## Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Air raid shelter	A building made to provide protection from air raids.
Allies/Allied Powers	One side of WWII. The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR, the United States of America, and China.
Axis/Axis Powers	The other side of WWII. The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan, and Italy. Other countries joined later.
Battle of Britain	A battle in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) defended Britain from German bombing.
The Blitz	Night-time air raids on British towns and cities by German aircraft.
Evacuation	Being moved from your city in order to be safe. Many people, especially children, were evacuated.
Gas mask	Worn for protection from toxic gases.
invade	Using power in order to attack other countries.
Nazi Party	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
rations	Food and water that are given out fairly to make sure there was enough for everyone.
The Blackout	People turned off their lights at night and covered their windows to prevent being spotted by German fighter planes.
Luftwaffe	The name for the German air force.



Above: Prime Ministers Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill; German leader Adolf Hitler

## Key Figures & Facts about World War II

- World War I ended in 1918. Germany had to give up land and was banned from having armed forces.
- 1933: the German people elected Adolf Hitler as leader, who led the Nazi political party.
- UK Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain negotiated with Adolf Hitler to give Germany part of Czechoslovakia as long as Germany did not invade Poland or other countries.
- Friday, September 1, 1939: Germany invades Poland.
- A total of 1.25 million German soldiers swept into Poland.
- World War II was started by Germany in an unprovoked attack on Poland. Britain and France declared war on Germany after Hitler had refused to stop his invasion of Poland.



The red areas on this map show all the countries that were invaded at some point during World War II by the Nazis.