



World War II

Term	Definition
Appeasement	Policy of Britain and France in the 1930s that believed that if they gave into Hitler's small demands then they would prevent another world war.
Atomic Bomb	A nuclear weapon that the USE used against Japan at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.
Battle of Stalingrad	A major land battle between the armies of Germany and the USSR in 1942 and 1943. The Soviet victory pushed German forces into a defensive retreat.
Blitzkrieg	A 'lightning war'; a fast and intense method of attack designed to take the enemy by surprise in warfare.
D-Day	The day on which the Allied invasion of Normandy (codenamed Operation Neptune) began; 6th June 1944.
Evacuation	Children from the cities were sent to stay with families in the countryside.
Foreign policy	A policy of a country in its dealings with other countries.
Nazi-Soviet Pact	A ten-year non-aggression agreement between Nazi Germany and the USSR, signed in 1939.
Nuclear War	A war fought with atomic and hydrogen (nuclear) bombs.
Operation Barbarossa	Codename for the German invasion of the USSR in 1942.
Operation Dynamo	The Allied evacuation of about 350,000 soldiers from the beaches at Dunkirk.
Operation Overlord	The landing of over 150,000 US, British and Canadian troops in Normandy, France.
Panzer	German tank during World War II.
Phoney War	Name given to time early in World War II where there were no military operations or fighting on the borders between Germany and France.
Rearmament	Building up a new stock of military weapons; increasing numbers in the armed forces.
Remilitarisation	Moving army back into a country or section of country which had been disarmed.
Scorched Earth	Policy of destroying anything that might be useful to the enemy, including crops, roads and bridges.
Superpowers	USA and USSR after World War II, which were the two most powerful countries in the world.
The Battle of Britain	A major air battle between the British Royal Air Force and the German Luftwaffe over the English Channel. It was Hitler's first defeat.
The Blitz	The bombing of British cities at night-time by the Luftwaffe.
The Maginot Line	A line of concrete forts and weapons built by France to defend its eastern border.
United Nations	An international body set up in 1945, the UN aims to develop and maintain friendly relations between countries.
V-E Day	Victory in Europe Day, 8th May 1945.
V-J Day	Victory over Japan Day, 15th August 1945.



3.4 DISCUSS the general causes and course of World War I or World War II and the immediate and long-term impact of the war on people and nations
 3.11 EXPLORE the contribution of technological developments and innovation to historical change

Hitler's Foreign Policy	The Anschluss	Appeasement and the Munich Conference
Adolf Hitler's foreign policy aimed at expanding German territory and establishing a "Greater German Reich." He aggressively pursued his goals through diplomatic means and military force, disregarding international treaties and agreements. Hitler's policies ultimately led to World War II, as his actions challenged the existing international order.	The Anschluss, meaning "union" in German, was the annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany in March 1938. Hitler's expansionist policies aimed to unite all German-speaking peoples under the umbrella of the Third Reich, and the Anschluss was a key step in this process. The annexation marked the beginning of Hitler's aggressive expansion in Europe.	Appeasement was a policy pursued by Britain and France in the 1930s, aimed at avoiding war with Germany by accommodating Hitler's demands. The Munich Conference, held in September 1938, was a diplomatic meeting between Germany, Britain, France, and Italy, where the Sudetenland crisis was resolved through concessions to Germany. The Munich Agreement was widely criticized for appeasing Hitler's aggression and failing to prevent war.
The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact	The Fall of Poland	The Fall of France
The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact was signed in August 1939 between Germany and the Soviet Union. The pact was a surprise to the international community and paved the way for the invasion of Poland. The pact allowed Hitler to start World War II without fear of a Soviet attack on his eastern front.	The Fall of Poland marked the beginning of World War II in Europe. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, and Britain and France declared war on Germany. The German military's use of blitzkrieg tactics and overwhelming force quickly defeated the Polish army. The fall of Poland demonstrated the effectiveness of Germany's military strategy and highlighted the weakness of the Allied response.	The Fall of France occurred in June 1940, when Germany invaded and defeated France. The French army was quickly overwhelmed, and the French government surrendered to Germany. The fall of France marked a turning point in the war and demonstrated the power of Germany's military.
The Battle of Britain and the Blitz	Operation Barbarossa	Turning of the War - The Battle of Stalingrad
The Battle of Britain was fought between the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the German Luftwaffe over the skies of Britain in 1940. The RAF's victory in the battle prevented Germany from gaining air superiority and invading Britain. The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against British cities, which caused widespread destruction and civilian casualties.	Operation Barbarossa was Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. The invasion was the largest military operation in history and aimed to defeat the Soviet Union and seize its vast resources. The invasion failed, largely due to the Soviet Union's resilience and the harsh Russian winter.	The Battle of Stalingrad was a major turning point in the war, where the Soviet Union defeated Germany in a brutal urban battle. The German army suffered heavy losses, and the defeat marked the beginning of the end for Germany's military dominance in the war.
The US Enters the War	War in the Mediterranean	The Battle of the Atlantic
The United States entered World War II after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour by the Japanese in December 1941. The attack led to the US declaring war on Japan, and subsequently Germany declared war on the US. The US entry into the war marked a significant turning point, as it provided much-needed resources and manpower to the Allies.	The war in the Mediterranean was fought between the Allies and the Axis powers, and it was a critical theatre for control of the sea routes between Europe and North Africa. The Allies were ultimately victorious in North Africa, and the Mediterranean was a key theatre in the Allied campaign against Italy.	The Battle of the Atlantic was a naval campaign fought between the Allies and the Germans over control of shipping lanes in the Atlantic. The battle was fought from 1939 to 1945, and it was critical to the Allied war effort as it allowed for supplies to reach Britain and the Soviet Union.
The D-Day Landings	The War's End and the Impact of World War II	Technological Developments
The D-Day landings were a significant Allied operation in World War II, where Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. The operation was a significant success and allowed for the Allies to establish a foothold in Europe, ultimately leading to the defeat of Germany.	World War II ended on 2nd September 1945, after the US dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The war had a profound impact on the world, leading to the deaths of millions of people and the displacement of millions more. The war also marked the beginning of the Cold War, as tensions between the Soviet Union and the West escalated. The war led to the establishment of the United Nations, and it ultimately reshaped the global political landscape.	World War II saw the emergence of radar and jet aircraft, fundamentally altering the dynamics of aerial combat. J. Robert Oppenheimer, spearheaded the Manhattan Project, leading to the development of the atomic bomb, a weapon of immense destructive power that the US used against Japan to end the war. In the field of computing and intelligence, the contributions of Alan Turing were paramount, particularly his work on the Colossus, the first programmable digital computer, crucial for code-breaking the Enigma Code. These groundbreaking innovations, ranging from atomic energy to computing, not only had a decisive impact on the outcome of the war but also paved the way for rapid technological progress in the post-war period.

