



History: Turquoise Class – An aspect or theme in British History beyond 1066.

How did Great Britain stand firm against the German threat?

Key Vocabulary

Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France, Russia (1941-1945))
Evacuee	Someone who was evacuated, moved from a danger area to a safer place (normally from the cities to rural areas)
Nazi	Member of the fascist German political party which came to power in 1933. Symbol = swastika
Fascism	Right wing political view associated with not allowing opposition and total control by a dictator.
Black out	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark so that buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes
Rationing	The controlled distribution of scarce resources (mainly food & clothing)
Blitzkrieg	Translated as 'lightning war'. German quick
Trenches	A long, narrow ditch used for troops to shelter from enemy fire or attack
Axis	Countries which fought on the German side (including: Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia)
Luftwaffe	The German Air Force (responsible for the Blitz)
Blitz	Series of aerial bombing raids on the UK, mainly cities including London, Bristol & Nottingham
Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis



Key People

Winston Churchill—UK Prime Minister 1940-1945 (and again from 1951-1955)
Adolf Hitler—Leader of the Nazi Party and Chancellor of Germany, 1933-1945 (also referred to as Fuhrer, meaning leader)
Neville Chamberlain—UK Prime Minister, 1937-1940

Key Places

Great Britain
 Germany
 Munich (Germany)
 France
 London
 Dunkirk
 Poland
 Western Europe

Key Dates

1st September, 1939	Germany invades Poland
3rd September, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany
January 1940	Rationing introduced in the UK
May-June 1940	Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany. Germany uses Blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe.
July 1940	Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain (The Battle of Britain and The Blitz begins)
7th December, 1941	The Japanese attack US navy in Pearl Harbor. The next Day the USA enters the war.
6th June, 1944	D-Day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans.
30th April, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
7th May, 1945	Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day
August 1945	Atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan by the US
2nd September, 1945	Japan surrenders signalling the end of WW2
July 1954	Rationing ends in UK



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Key Knowledge

World War 2 was a battle between two groups of countries – the “Allies” and the “Axis”. The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States. The major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.

Before World War 2 began, Germany was ruled by a man named Adolf Hitler. Together with the Nazi Party, he wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on 1 September 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun.

During the course of the war, German forces advanced through Europe. By the summer of 1941 they had invaded France, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and the USSR.

Millions of Germans were imprisoned and killed because they didn't fit the image of the 'perfect' German Hitler wanted to create what he thought was the “best” and strongest race – and to the Nazi Party, this excluded certain groups, such as Jews, Gypsies and those with physical and mental disabilities. In an attempt to eliminate a “racial enemy” outside of Germany, such groups were also persecuted in the countries invaded by German forces.



*'History will be kind to me
for I intend to write it.'*
Churchill



Key Knowledge

The group most heavily targeted by the Nazis were the Jews. 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.

The US didn't join the war until 1941, when Japan attacked the United States – at their Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On 8 December 1941 (the very next day), the US declared War on Japan and, in turn, its German allies.

The Germans surrendered on 8 May 1945. In 1944, an Allied army crossed from Britain to free France from Nazi rule. One year later, Allied armies invaded Germany, forcing the Germans to surrender.

After nuclear attacks on Japan's major cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan also surrendered to Allied forces in August the same year.

World War 2 had ended.