

Year 6 World War II Knowledge Organiser

Date	Key Event	Important Locations
30/01/1933	Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany (Weimar Republic).	Berlin, Germany
23/08/1939	The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact is signed. This was a non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.	Moscow, Soviet Union
01/09/1939	The Second World War begins after the Wehrmacht invade Poland. The Soviet Union also later invades Poland from the East. War is declared by Britain and France on 3 rd September.	Bzura, Poland
22/06/1941	With most of Europe under Axis control, Hitler turns toward the invasion of the Soviet Union in what was called Operation Barbarossa.	Eastern European Borders with the Soviet Union.
8/12/1941	USA declares war on Japan the day after Pearl Harbour is bombed and joins the Allied Forces. This is after extensive territorial gains by the Japanese, attacking the American's out of fear.	Pearl Harbour, Hawaii
June-July 1944	After years of oppression by Axis forces, the Allies begin a counter-offensive. Soviet forces push back in the East, whereas British, Canadian, Australian and American forces embark on the D-Day Landings.	Normandy, France
2/09/1945	WWII Is officially over following the surrender of Japan to the USA. Hitler commits suicide in April and Germany surrendered a week later.	Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan Berlin, Germany

Key people	Their Role
Winston Churchill	Prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1940-45.
Emperor Hirohito	Emperor and leader of Japan.
Hermann Goering	Reichsmarschall and leader of the Luftwaffe (Air Force) and trusted friend of Adolf Hitler.
Field Marshal Montgomery	British Military Commander who was involved in the planning and execution of the Normandy Landings.
Charles de Gaulle	Former President of France who led the Free French Army in their resistance against the Nazi occupation of France.
Joseph Stalin	Pupil of communist revolutionist Vladimir Lenin, and leader of the Soviet union throughout WWII. He was a feared leader behind many unsolved disappearances at the time.

Vocabulary	Definition
Non-aggression	An agreement between two countries to not attack each other.
Oppression	A prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority.
Weimar Republic	A German state set up after the events of the First World War.
Blitzkrieg	German advance around the Ardennes Forest at a striking pace.
Wehrmacht	German Army
Kamikaze	A Japanese pilot whose flight would usually end by crashing purposefully into American ships.
Liberation	The act of freeing someone from imprisonment, oppression or slavery.



World War II Timeline 1939 - 1945

