

SHAKESPEARE CLASS
HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER-WW2- THE BLITZ

Key vocabulary	
The Blitz	German air raids, from a German word 'blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'.
Allies	Countries (including Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA) who joined forces to fight the Axis Powers.
Axis powers	Germany, Japan, Italy and other countries that were fighting against the allies.
Neutral countries	Countries who were not involved in the war
Royal Air Force	RAF – Britain's Air Force
Luftwaffe	Germany's Air Force
chronological	Order in which key events happened starting with the earliest to the latest
D-Day landings	Name given to the day when the Normandy Landings (beaches in France) took place during World War II

What we have already learnt in History

Year 3 – Vikings

Year 4 - Victorians

Year 5 – Ancient Egyptians and Stone Age

Artefacts – we looked at artefacts to understand what life was like during these different periods and how they have changed over time.

Timelines – we placed key events on timelines in **chronological** order to understand how that period developed over time.

We have looked at Gravesend in the **present** and **past** (All about me).

Key Events		
1939	1 st September	German troops invade Poland.
	3 rd September	Britain and France declare war on Germany.
1940	10 th May	The Battle of France begins.
	26 th May	Allied forces are evacuated from Dunkirk in France.
	10 th July	The Battle of Britain begins.
	7 th September	The Blitz begins.
1941	7 th December	Japan bombs Pearl Harbor in the US.
1944	6 th June	The D-Day landings.
1945	7 th and 8 th May	Germany surrenders to the Allies . VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is celebrated the next day.
	6 th and 9 th August	The US drops atomic bombs on two cities in Japan.
	2 nd September	Japan formally surrenders, ending the war.

How Did World War II Start?

The leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, had plans to take over other countries. In March 1938, Germany invaded and **annexed** Austria, which made other countries worried. On 29th September 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders signed a treaty called the Munich Agreement. This allowed Hitler to **annex** the Sudetenland (an area of **Czechoslovakia**) if he agreed not to invade anywhere else. However, in August 1939, Hitler broke the agreement and invaded the rest of **Czechoslovakia**, followed by Poland on 1st September. Britain, France and Poland had made a pact to support each other, so Britain and France declared war on Germany.

The Armed Forces
Before the war, people volunteered for the armed forces but as the war progressed, men and women had to register for National Service. This **conscription** meant that they could then be 'called up' into the armed forces or into other jobs to help the war effort. Women were not given combat roles but they did many different jobs in the armed forces.

The Battle of Britain
In July 1940, Germany planned a secret mission to invade Britain. They began by sending the Luftwaffe (German air force) to bomb British ships, airfields and other targets. RAF (Royal Air Force) planes fought back in what were known as **dogfights**.



Believing they were winning, the Luftwaffe moved on to bombing London on 7th September 1940 (the start of the Blitz). On 15th September, the Luftwaffe launched another attack but the RAF fought back and it was clear that the Germans would not be able to win. This date is **commemorated** every year as the end of the Battle of Britain.