

Social Studies / History Explorers: Understanding the Second World War

Learning objective: To identify key themes, events, and experiences of the Second World War to understand its impact on British society.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the Second World War. Work with a partner to discuss the 'Greater Depth' questions to deepen your historical understanding.

What was 'Evacuation'?

A government scheme to move children and vulnerable people from cities to the countryside to keep them safe from bombing raids.

What was the purpose of 'Rationing'?

To ensure fair distribution of food and goods like sugar, butter, and petrol because supplies were limited during the war.

Define 'The Blitz'.

A period of intense bombing raids by the German air force on British cities, particularly London, starting in 1940.

What was an 'Anderson Shelter'?

A small, arched outdoor shelter made of corrugated steel, designed to protect families from falling bombs in their gardens.

Who were the 'Allies'?

The group of countries, including Britain, France, the USA, and the Soviet Union, who fought against the Axis powers.

What was the 'Home Front'?

The term used to describe the activities and experiences of people living in Britain while the war was being fought abroad.

What is 'Victory in Europe Day' (VE Day)?

The date celebrated on 8th May 1945 to mark the formal acceptance by the Allies of Nazi Germany's surrender.

What does the term 'Axis' refer to?

The alliance of countries, primarily Nazi Germany, Italy, and Japan, who fought against the Allied forces.

Explain why the government introduced 'Dig for Victory'.

It encouraged citizens to grow their own fruit and vegetables on any available land to prevent food shortages.

What was the role of the 'Women's Land Army'?

Women who took over farming jobs to produce food for the country while men were away fighting in the armed forces.