



Key info

- 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.
- Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, 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, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Greece, Yugoslavia and the USSR.
- Some countries remained ‘neutral’ in World War 2. Such countries were Spain, Sweden and Switzerland – who chose not to join either side.
- 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.

allies / Allied Forces	Countries who fought together against the Nazis
axis powers	Countries who fought together with the Nazis.
invasion	Going into another country to take it over.
occupied	A country which had been taken over by the Nazis was said to be occupied.
surrender	Giving up your country’s control to the other side.