

## The Blitz

On the 7th September, 1940, the German air force changed its strategy of bombing the British air force and began to concentrate on bombing London. Nearly 2,000 people were killed or wounded in London's first night of the Blitz. The heavy and frequent bombing attacks on London and other cities was known as the 'Blitz'. Night after night, from September 1940 until May 1941, German bombers attacked British cities, ports and industrial areas.

## Anne Frank

Anne Frank was an ordinary German Jewish girl. She is well-known because of her diary - 'The Diary of Anne Frank'. It was first published as a book, in Dutch, in 1947. Since then, millions of people have read the thoughts and hopes of one young girl, and they have been truly inspired by them.

Throughout her diary, people all over the world are able to see what life was like for Jewish people during World War II.



The diary of Anne Frank is at the Anne Frank House Museum in Amsterdam.

## What you should already know:

- In September 1939, German armies invaded Poland and France.
- Hitler wanted to make Germany the most powerful country in Europe.
- Adolf Hitler was the German leader during World War II.
- The major Allied Powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States.
- The major Axis Powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.

## Key Vocabulary

**attic** - a space or room inside or partly inside the roof of a building.

**Auschwitz** - was originally a Polish army barracks in southern Poland. Also known as Auschwitz-Birkenau. It opened in 1940 and was the largest of the Nazi concentration and death camps.

**commemorate** - to recall and show respect by doing or producing something.

**countryside** - the land and scenery of a rural area.

**ethnicity** - connected with or relating to different racial or cultural groups of people.

**flee** - run away from a place or situation of danger.

**Holocaust** - a very large amount of destruction, especially or heat, or the killing of very large numbers of people.

**Jew** - a member of the people and cultural community whose traditional religion is Judaism.

**surrender** - stop resisting to an enemy or opponent and submit to their authority.

## VE Day

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1945, the Germans surrendered to the Allies. The war in Europe was officially over, and the following day was called VE (Victory in Europe) Day. Huge celebrations took place in Paris, London, and throughout Europe. In London, people gathered in front of Buckingham Palace to see prime minister Winston Churchill and the royal family. After five devastating years, the war in Europe was finally over.



On **May 8, 1945**, both Great Britain and the United States celebrated Victory in Europe Day. Cities in both nations, as well as formerly occupied cities in Western Europe, put out flags and banners, rejoicing in the defeat of the Nazi war machine during World War II.

## Websites you might find useful...

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/>
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Britain.html>
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-ii/>

## Concentration camps

Concentration camps were prisons where people, especially Jews, were made to work by the Nazis. In 1942, eight of the Nazi camps were equipped with gas chambers. These were used to murder large numbers of people. Conditions in the camps were terrible. There was not enough food available, and guards committed acts of violence against the prisoners. Working too hard on too little food and rest was responsible for many deaths.

## The Holocaust

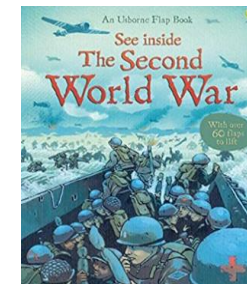
The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population.

## Books you might find useful...



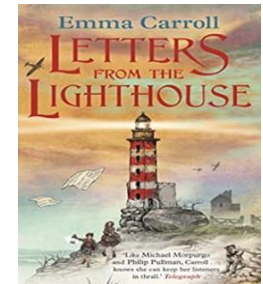
Diary of a Young Girl

Mirjam Pressler



The Second World War

Rob Lloyd Jones



Letters from the Lighthouse

Emma Carroll