

Year 9 Turning Points in the Second World War Knowledge Organiser

Rationale: This unit covers one of the key events of the 20th century. The aim is to explore the key turning points in this conflict. This will involve learning about the **consequences** of these events so that we can **analyse their importance** within the course of the Second World War.

Key concept		Key vocabulary	
1. Turning point	An event or moment in history that leads to a decisive change (usually with positive results).	15. Treaty	An agreement between countries
Key events		16. Appeasement	Giving in to demands made by Hitler in order to avoid war
2. The invasion of Poland (Sept 1939)	The Nazi invasion of Poland started the Second World War.	17. Rearmament	When a country begins to build up its armed forces and weapons
3. The evacuation of Dunkirk (June 1940)	Operation Dynamo was launched to rescue British and French soldiers from the beach at Dunkirk.	18. Remilitarisation	Rearming an area that had previously been disarmed e.g. Putting soldiers into an area they had not been allowed in before.
4. Battle of Britain (July - Sept 1940)	Fought between the British and German air forces. It prevented the German invasion of Britain.	19. Invasion	When one country used its army to enter and take control of another country by force.
5. The Blitz (September 1940 - May 1941)	The bombing of British towns and cities by the German air force.	20. Lebensraum	The German word for 'living space'.
6. Operation Barbarossa (June 1941)	The German invasion of the USSR; events included the Siege of Leningrad and the Battle of Stalingrad.	21. Declaration	A formal announcement about something e.g. the start of a war
7. Attack on Pearl Harbour (December 1941)	The Japanese launched a surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbour.	22. Allies	Countries who work together. In the Second World War the Allied Powers were Britain, France, the USSR and the USA.
8. D-Day (June 1944)	The Allies launched the biggest air and seaborne invasion in history to liberate Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control.	23. Axis Powers	Germany, Japan and Italy. They were allies in the Second World War.
9. The dropping of the atomic bomb (August 1945)	America dropped the first atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Four days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.	24. Blitzkrieg	A German word meaning 'lightning war'. Germany's strategy to defeat its enemies quickly.
Key people/groups		25. Occupation	When a country uses its army to establish control of land or another country.
10. Adolf Hitler	The leader of Nazi Germany	26. Surrender	Giving into an enemy and letting them win or take control.
11. Neville Chamberlain	The Prime Minister (leader) of Britain at the start of the war	27. Retreat	When an army moves back or withdraws from fighting the enemy.
12. Winston Churchill	The Prime Minister (leader) of Britain from 1940.	28. Disaster	An event that causes great damage or loss of life.
13. RAF (Royal Air Force)	The British air force	29. Triumph	A great victory or achievement
14. Luftwaffe	The German air force	30. Siege	When an army surrounds a town or building, cutting off essential supplies to force the enemy to surrender.
		31. Radar	A system for detecting the presence of enemy aircraft.
		32. Evacuation	The action of moving people from a place of danger to a place of safety.
		33. Propaganda	Information used to make people believe an idea or support a leader; often misleading.
		34. Censorship	Controlling what information people are allowed to see.
		35. Morale	A person's attitude and feelings. This can be high - when a person is happy and enthusiastic or it can be low - when a person is unhappy or unenthusiastic.
		36. Liberation	Freeing a country or a person from unfair or cruel treatment
		37. Atlantic Wall	A system of coastal defence built by Nazi Germany as a defence against invasion