Year 6 Spring 1 History – World War 2

Key Knowledge

World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945 and was fought between the Allies (Britain, France, USA, USSR, China) and the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan). It began when Germany invaded Poland and ended with Germany's surrender in May 1945 (VE Day) and Japan's surrender in August 1945 (VJ Day). Life in Britain changed with rationing, evacuations, and women taking on new roles in factories, farms, and as nurses. Major events included the Blitz, D-Day, and the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan. Around 70 million people died, and the United Nations was formed to help maintain world peace.

Key Skills

Historical Enquiry – Use sources such as letters, photos, and artefacts to learn about life during WWII.

Chronology – Place key events of WWII in order on a timeline.

Comparison – Compare life in wartime Britain with life today.

Empathy – Understand how people felt and coped during the war.

Causation – Explain why the war started and what caused it to end.

Interpretation – Understand how different people and countries viewed the same events.

Do you remember learning?

Anglo – Saxons



Key Vocabulary

Allies	Countries that fought together against the Axis Powers.
Axis Powers	Germany, Italy, and Japan during WWII.
Evacuation	Moving people (especially children) to safer areas during bombing raids.
Rationing	Limiting food and goods so everyone got a fair share.
Blitz	Intense bombing of British cities by German planes.
Propaganda	Information used to influence people's opinions or boost morale.
Occupation	When one country controls another by force.
Surrender	To stop fighting and admit defeat.
Holocaust	The murder of six million Jewish people by Nazi Germany.
VE Day / VJ Day	Victory in Europe Day (8 May 1945) / Victory over Japan Day (15 August 1945).





