

Timeline	
26 September 1938	Gas masks issued to civilians in Britain.
1 September 1939	Britain begins to evacuate children, teachers and mothers with young children.
3 September 1939	Britain declares war on Germany.
7 January 1940	Basic food rationing is introduced in Britain.
10 May 1940	Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Britain, replacing Neville Chamberlain.
29 May 1940	The evacuation of Dunkirk begins.
7 September 1940	The London Blitz starts and lasts for 8 months.
1 June 1941	The British government introduces rationing of clothes.

Key People	
Neville Chamberlain	He tried to pursue a policy of appeasement to avoid war with Germany. Prime Minister at the start of the Second World War. He resigned in May 1940.
Winston Churchill	Prime Minister from May 1940 to the end of the war in 1945. He led Britain to victory in the Second World War. Churchill's leadership and speeches boosted the morale of the British people during its darkest hour.
Adolf Hitler	The leader of Nazi Germany. His desire to expand Germany led to the start of the Second World War. He aimed to exterminate all Jews. It is believed he committed suicide as it became clear Germany would be defeated in 1945.

Key Terms	
Home Front	The people who stay in their own country during a war.
Morale	The confidence and enthusiasm shown by a person or group of people at a particular time.
Appeasement	The attempt by Chamberlain to keep Hitler happy in order to try and avoid war.
Blitz	Short for 'Blitzkrieg' which means 'lightning war'. The Blitz was heavy and frequent bombing attacks.
Blackout	Everyone had to cover their windows and doors at night with heavy blackout curtains, cardboard or paint to avoid enemy bombing.
Shelter	Shelters were built to protect civilians from bombing. Examples included Morrison, Anderson and the London Underground.
ARP Warden	Air-raid protection warden whose job it was to organise and protect civilians during air raids.
Operation Pied Piper	The mass evacuation (1.5 million) of school children, mothers with children under five, and pregnant women from cities to the countryside to avoid air raids.
Propaganda	Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Rationing	Where goods are limited. During the Second World War, many essential and non-essential goods were rationed such as food and clothing.
Home Guard	Volunteers who defended Britain's coastline, in case of invasion, during the Second World War.
Phoney War	The first six months of the war was described as the 'Phoney War' because there was almost no fighting or bombs dropped.

Key Questions	
1) Why did the war break out in 1939?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933 and began to expand the German empire. • Chamberlain attempted to pursue a policy of appeasement to give into Hitler's demands to avoid war. In March 1938, Hitler's Germany invaded Austria. Chamberlain allowed this to happen. • The final straw was when Germany invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. On 3 September, Britain declared war on Germany. 	
2) What was the impact of Dunkirk on the Home Front?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May 1940, an Operation Dynamo was launched to save 338,000 men trapped at Dunkirk. Despite saving over a third of a million men, Dunkirk was a military disaster. • Churchill declared that Britain would never surrender to Hitler and insisted Britain would bounce back. • In June and July, the national mood was at its darkest as the people of Britain awaited an invasion. 	
3) What was the impact of the Blitz?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blitz started in September 1940 and continued for 8 months. 32,000 civilians were killed during the Blitz. • People were warned of air raids using sirens. ARP Wardens offered support to civilians. Air raid shelters were built and blackouts were enforced. 	
4) What was the impact of evacuation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, and to a lesser extent families, were evacuated from industrial cities to the countryside. • Many children stayed with middle and upper class families who were shocked by the conditions of people arriving from industrial cities. • City children often had poor clothing. They were often poorly educated and had suffered from a lack of clean air. It showed the impact of poverty that existed. 	
5) Why was rationing introduced?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make the British weak, the Germans tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods. German submarines attacked British ships. • Before the war, Britain imported 55 million tons of food, a month after the war had started this figure had dropped to 12 million. • Every member of the public was issued with a Ration Book. These contained coupons which allowed you to buy goods. 	