



World War 2: Y6 History Knowledge Organiser



Key Vocabulary

axis	Countries which fought on the German side including Italy, Germany and Japan.
Allies	Countries which fought on the British side (including: USA, Great Britain, France and Russia).
Nazi	Member of the German political group which came to power in 1933.
evacuation	Organised movement of children and the vulnerable from towns and cities to safe zones.
Kindertransport	Transport arranged for Jewish children to flee German occupied countries.
Blitz	A series of bombing raids on the UK.
propaganda	Controlling news media (such as radio) to depict the war effort.
Holocaust	Murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis.
Luftwaffe	The German Airforce.
RAF	The Royal Airforce (British).
refugees	A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war.
Genocide	The deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group.

War Timeline

Sept 1939	In 1933, Adolf Hitler rose to power as the political leader of Germany. Germany invades Poland. Britain insists Germany withdraw troops from Poland. The Germans refuse. Britain declares war on 3rd Sep 1939. Britain initially responded with bombing raids over Germany.
1939 onward	Children were evacuated from cities expected to be bombed as enemy planes targeted factories etc. Children were evacuated to the countryside.
May 1940	Chamberlain resigned and Winston Churchill was chosen to be his successor as Prime Minister on May 10, 1940.
June 1940	Evacuation of Dunkirk. Large numbers of troops were surrounded by Germans at the French coastal town of Dunkirk. 338, 226 were saved by a fleet of 800 boats. This is known as the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'.
June 1944	D-Day. The Normandy landings were a series of landing operations by the Allies to claim Europe. It was the largest seaborne operation in history.
7th May 1945	Germany surrenders: The Allies had forced the surrender of Axis troops in Europe. On 7 th May 1945 Germany surrendered to the Allies – the end of war in Europe.
8th May 1945	VE Day. The VE in VE Day stands for Victory in Europe. It was the public holiday of 8th May 1945 to mark the defeat of Germany by the Allied forces in World War 2.
6th Aug 1945	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Japan refused to surrender, threatening to fight on. The US considered invasion but this would have led to deaths of 500,000. On the 9 th Aug, the US dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki.
15th Aug 1945	End of WW2. The surrender of Japan was announced on August 15 th 1945.

Key Knowledge

* World War 2 was a battle between two groups of countries – the 'Allies' and the 'Axis'.

* Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power.

* 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.

* Millions of Germans were imprisoned and killed because they didn't fit the image of the 'perfect' German. Hitler wanted to create what he thought was the 'best' and strongest race.

* The group most heavily targeted by the Nazis were the Jews. Around six million Jewish people were killed during World War 2 in one of history's most terrible events – the Holocaust.



VikingsY6 History Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

archaeologist	People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
raids	A sudden armed attack with the aim of causing damage rather than occupying any of the enemy's land.
vicious	To be intentionally harmful or nasty. Vikings warriors were known to be vicious.
longhouse	A large hall-like building where many Viking families would live together.
berserkers	Warriors that went to war wearing wolf or bear skins. They were out of control and charged fearlessly. The word 'berserk' came from it.
Odin	One of the most famous Viking Gods known for wisdom.
Scandinavia	The name given to a collection of countries: Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
Danelaw	The name given to lands in Britain occupied by the Vikings.
longship	The narrow boat used by Vikings to raid along coasts.
Jorvik	The Viking name for the city of York. York now has a famous Viking museum called Jorvik.



Key Knowledge

- ☐ Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and become farmers. The lands that the Vikings occupied were known as Danelaw.
- ☐ No Vikings wore horns in their helmets.
- ☐ Vikings spoke Norse, which had an alphabet made up of runes.
- ☐ Longships were designed to sail in both deep and shallow water so that they could get close to the shore and sail in rivers to get inland.
- ☐ Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries, looting gold.
- ☐ The most important Viking British city was York, or Jorvik as it was known by the Vikings.

The names for most of the days of the week originate from Vikings.

Monday – linked to the moon by the name Mani – Norse for Moon.

Tuesday named after the Viking God of War – Tyr.

Wednesday – named after Odin and known as Woden's Day.

Thursday – named after Thor, the God of thunder.





Islamic Civilisations Y6 History

Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

Baghdad	Baghdad is today the capital of Iraq and was the capital of the Muslim world.
House of Wisdom	This was a library or university where scholars from all over the world were invited to study
mosque	A place where Muslims worship.
Ramadan	The most sacred month in the Islamic culture. Muslims do not eat or drink between dawn and dusk.
Prophet Muhammad	Muslims believe that Islam is a faith that has always existed and that it was gradually revealed to them by Muhammad.
madrasa	A school built in, or alongside, a mosque.
manuscript	A book, document or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed.
crusades	The Crusades were a series of wars when Christians invaded the Muslim lands.
scholar	A highly educated person.



Key Knowledge

- ❑ Until 1258, Baghdad was the world centre of culture and learning, with the period being known as the Golden Age of Islam.
- ❑ Islamic scholars and inventors adopted the Hindi symbol for zero and style of numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.) which we still use today.
- ❑ By the 8th century Islamic scholars were using paper rather than parchment or papyrus for their writing.
- ❑ In 762, the newly-founded city of Baghdad became the capital of the Muslim world.
- ❑ The House of Wisdom housed a library and attracted scholars from around the world who translated texts from the classical world into Arabic.

The House of Wisdom

- ❑ The place where scholars were invited to record their knowledge in Arabic.
- ❑ All scholars were invited: Muslim, Jews and Christians.
- ❑ Knowledge of medicine, astrology and science were the main areas studied and shared.
- ❑ The knowledge was very advanced for its time, with cures for many serious ailments being discovered.