

## Knowledge Organiser, Key Events of World War II

Event	Date	Description
<b>Germany invades Poland</b>	September 1939	Germany's blitzkrieg invasion started WWII in Europe. Poland was quickly overrun.
<b>France and Britain declare war on Germany</b>	September 1939	France and Britain entered the war in response to Germany's aggression. This marked the start of Allied resistance.
<b>Battle of Britain</b>	July 1940 – October 1940	A major air campaign waged by Germany to gain air superiority over Britain. Despite heavy bombing, the RAF successfully defended Britain.
<b>Germany invades the Soviet Union</b>	June 1941	Operation Barbarossa, the largest invasion in history, opened the Eastern Front. It ultimately failed due to Soviet resilience and harsh winters.
<b>Japan attacks Pearl Harbor</b>	December 1941	A surprise attack brought the US into the war. Over 2,400 Americans were killed during the attack.
<b>US joins the Allies</b>	December 1941	The US declared war on Japan and later on Germany and Italy. This greatly strengthened the Allied forces.
<b>Battle of Stalingrad</b>	August 1942 – February 1943	A turning point in the East, where Soviet forces stopped Germany's advance. The battle was one of the deadliest in history, with an estimated 1.7 to 2 million people killed as a result of the fighting.
<b>Battle of El Alamein</b>	October 1942 – November 1942	A key Allied victory in North Africa, where British forces under Montgomery defeated Rommel's Afrika Korps, halting the Axis advance.
<b>D-Day: Allied invasion of Normandy</b>	June 1944	The Allies launched the liberation of Western Europe. The invasion involved over 156,000 Allied troops.
<b>Germany surrenders</b>	May 1945	Following Hitler's death and the fall of Berlin, Germany signed its surrender. VE Day (Victory in Europe) was celebrated on May 8.
<b>Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki</b>	August 1945	The US dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force Japan to surrender. Over 200,000 people were killed as a result.
<b>Japan surrenders</b>	September 1945	Japan's surrender officially ended World War II. The surrender ceremony took place aboard the USS Missouri.