What impact did WW2 have on society?

Key Vocabulary	
Conflict	To disagree strongly; differ.
Appeasement	The policy of making concessions to aggressors in order to keep the peace.
Treaty of Versailles 	A peace treaty signed on 28th June 1919 which marked peace between Germany and the Allied powers.
Reparations	Payment required of a defeated nation by the victors, for damages, alleged atrocities, or other injury.
Allies	A person, group, or country that has joined with another for a particular purpose.
RAF 	Abbreviation of "Royal Air Force."
Luftwaffe 	The air defense part of the German military.
Battle of Britain 	A military campaign during WW2 which took place between July and October 1940.
Winston Churchill 	He served as the British Prime Minster during WW2.
The Blitz 	A German bombing campaign against Britain between 1940-41.
Air raid shelter 	A building or structure designed to protect citizens during WW2.
Anderson shelter 	A small, prefabricated shelter built in Britain to protect citizens.
Blackout	The loss or hiding of all the lights in a region.
Air raid 	A military raid by aircraft, especially bombers.
Evacuation	The removal of citizens, soldiers, or the like from an endangered place.
Evacuee 	A person who has been removed from a place, especially for safety

What was World War II? When did it take place?

The Second World War took place between 1st September 1939 and 2nd September 1945. It was considered a global war, being fought on the vast majority of the world's countries in the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia,. The war took place in the air involving aircraft as well as on the sea.

The main Allied powers were the British Empire, France, America and the USSR (Russia). The Allies fought against Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan. Nazi Germany was led by Adolf Hitler. He wanted to expand German territory and create a race with certain types of people in it known as the "Aryan race.".







The war began when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The British had promised to help defend Poland if she was invaded, so in September 1939, the British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, declared war on Germany. As a result, the British army was sent to mainland Europe to help prepare the fight against the Germans, and at home many preparations were made. Children were evacuated from towns and cities, and air raid shelters were built in back gardens.

By the end of the war, over 3.5 million men and women from Britain and over 8 million people from the Commonwealth had contributed to winning the war. This included people working in the armed forces and civilians. Many of these people were not from Britain, but felt a need to fight for the British Empire.

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What was the Battle of Britain?

'The Battle of Britain was a military campaign in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy defended Britain against large scale attacks by Nazi Germany's air force called the Luftwaffe. It was the first military campaign fought entirely by the air forces and lasted between 10th July until 31st October 1940. When the battle began, Hitler was very confident about winning as he controlled most of Europe and his aircraft outnumbered the British aircraft.

The battle was fought in the skies, in dogfights, which could be seen by the people on the ground. Despite having fewer pilots and aircraft, the Royal Air Force seemed to be winning. The Germans, therefore, changed their tactics from targeting aircraft to bombing the towns and cities (the Blitz).





What happened during the Blitz?

The Blitz was a German bombing campaign against Britain in 1940 and 1941. The term was first used by the British press and originated from the term 'Bliztkreig', the German word meaning "lightning war". Hitler's plan was to make British civilians demoralised so that they would demand peace. It made being a civilian in Britain as dangerous as being a soldier overseas.

The first bombing raids began on 7th September 1940. They were very dangerous and frightening, but the people of Britain were determined to carry on as normal. London was bombed every night for 57 days. Nearly every city was bombed. By the time the Blitz had ended in the summer of 1941, over 43,000 people had been killed and many were made homeless..





Rationing

To ensure all civilians had enough food in order to survive, food rationing began in January 1940. Initially it began with butter, bacon and sugar. Further items were added to this at a later date and their quantities depended on what was available.

To ensure that everyone received their fair share of the rations, rationing books were issued. These varied depending on age and included:

- A buff book for adults;
- A blue book for children aged 5 to 16 (children received extra milk and eggs but half the allowance of meat);
- A green book for children under 5 or pregnant women.






What was civilian life like during WW2?

Life for civilians during the Second World War was very difficult. Children were evacuated away from towns and cities to go and live in the countryside with host families for their safety.





Many men were asked to join the army. Therefore, there was a need for women to undertake the jobs that men had previously done. Women were employed in a range of positions including: munition factory workers (making weapons); working in the armed forces (army, navy and air force); working as Land Girls; driving buses or trains; working as nurses or ambulance drivers; building ships; becoming searchlight operators and becoming air raid wardens. Even Princess Elizabeth (later to become Queen) served in the army during the war as a driver and mechanic.