



Brookfield Primary School Knowledge Organiser



Year 5: What was the impact of World War II on the people of Britain?

History is the study of how the lives of people have changed over time and understanding the reasons behind why changes happen.

The Battle of Britain (July–October 1940)

The Battle of Britain had four phases and was a major air battle over southern England. The German Luftwaffe tried to destroy Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) to prepare for an invasion. But thanks to the RAF's smart tactics, organisation and use of radar, they stopped the Luftwaffe. The RAF pilots were called 'The Few' because they defended Britain against a much larger airforce.



The Blitz (1940)

Coming from the German word blitzkrieg ('lightning war'), the Blitz was a period of time when German bomber planes began targeting British cities and industrial areas - particularly London, Coventry, Manchester, Cardiff, Belfast and Clydebank.

1

Women and children (1939–1945)

When war was declared in September 1939, 1.5 million children were evacuated to safer areas in the countryside. More followed during the Blitz in 1940 and again in 1944. Some enjoyed their time with kind hosts, but others felt homesick or struggled to adjust. With many men away, around 5 million women worked at the start of the war, and by 1943, this number grew to over 7 million. Women worked in various industries, including the armed forces.



The Windrush generation (1948–1970s)

Arriving from the Caribbean between 1948 and the early 1970s, the Windrush generation was part of a wider wave of migration from across the British Empire, including people from Africa and Asia, who helped rebuild Britain after World War 2.

The Windrush generation filled important roles in transport, healthcare and many other industries. Their cultural influence — through music, food and traditions — continues to shape Britain today.

advancement	The act of progressing or moving forwards.
alliance	People from different places sharing and learning about each other's way of life.
cause	The reason for an action or event.
conflict	A disagreement or argument between people, groups or countries, often resulting in violence or war.
Cultural exchange	People from different places sharing and learning about each other's way of life.
Nazi Party	The political group led by Adolf Hitler in Germany, which often shared harmful and extreme ideas.
propaganda	Information given out that may not be accurate which is intended to make people believe something or to hold a particular point of view.
Windrush generation	Caribbean people who came to the UK between 1948 and 1971, especially those that arrived in a ship called the Windrush.

General Historical Words

ancestor citizen cultural emigration
evacuation empire immigration legacy
migration media political press social trade

Why did Britain go to war in 1939?

How did the Battle of Britain affect the Royal Air Force?

What do sources tell us about The Blitz?

What was evacuation like?

Did World War II change women's roles?

Why did some people migrate to Britain after World War II?

