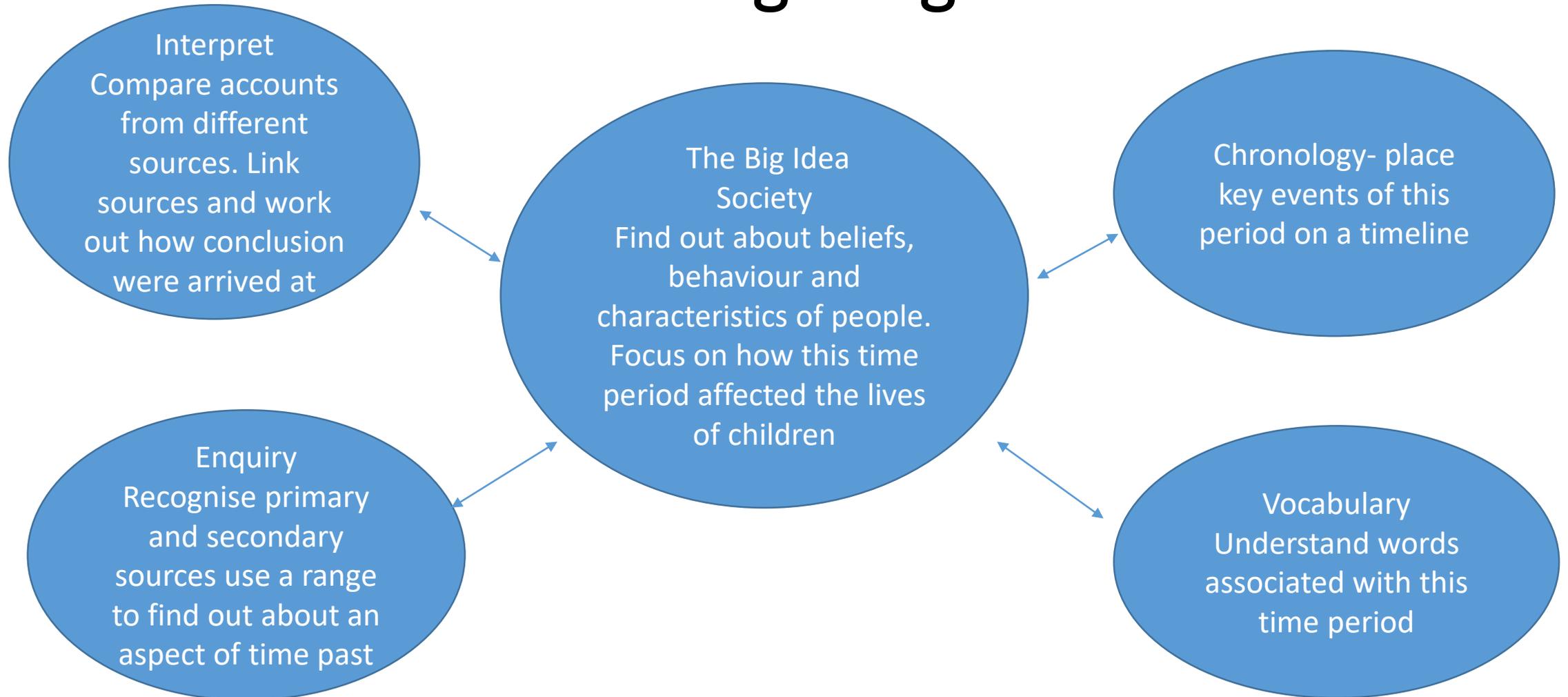


# Child's War Knowledge Organiser



# A Child's War

## The Second World War

The Second World War lasted from 1939-1945. On one side were the Axis Powers; Germany/Italy and Japan. On the other side were the Allied Powers; Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the USA. After six years of fighting the Allied powers won the war.

### Key leaders

#### Allied Leaders



Above- Winston Churchill Prime Minister of Great Britain, Franklin D Roosevelt President of the United States, Joseph Stalin Leader of the Soviet Union and Charles De Gaulle President of France



#### Axis Leaders

Adolf Hitler leader of Germany, Benito Mussolini Prime Minister of Italy, Hirohito Emperor of Japan

### Why did we go to war?

Adolf Hitler, together with the Nazi Party, wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on 1 September 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany – World War II had begun. 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.

Some countries remained 'neutral' in World War 2. Such countries were Spain, Sweden and Switzerland – who chose not to join either side. The Germans surrendered on 8 May 1945. In 1944, an Allied army crossed from Britain to free France from Nazi rule. One year later, Allied armies invaded Germany, forcing the Germans to surrender. After nuclear attacks on Japan's major cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan also surrendered to Allied forces in August the same year. World War 2 had ended

# What was it like to be at war?

## Air Raid Shelters

Many people built air raid shelters called Anderson shelters, in their gardens. These were made from corrugated steel panels with soil spread on top. Some people who didn't have gardens made Morrison shelter inside their homes. This was like a steel table with wire mesh around the sides. These were needed for people to shelter in when German planes bombed Britain's cities. People also sheltered in tube stations in London during bombing raids.



## Black Outs

Blackout regulations were imposed on 1 September 1939, before the declaration of war. These required that all windows and doors should be covered at night with suitable material such as heavy curtains, cardboard or paint, to prevent the escape of any glimmer of light that might aid enemy aircraft.

## Gas Mask

By September 1939 some 38 million gas masks had been given out, house to house, to families. They were never to be needed. Everyone in Britain was given a gas mask in a cardboard box, to protect them from gas bombs, which could be dropped during air raids.



## Food and Rationing

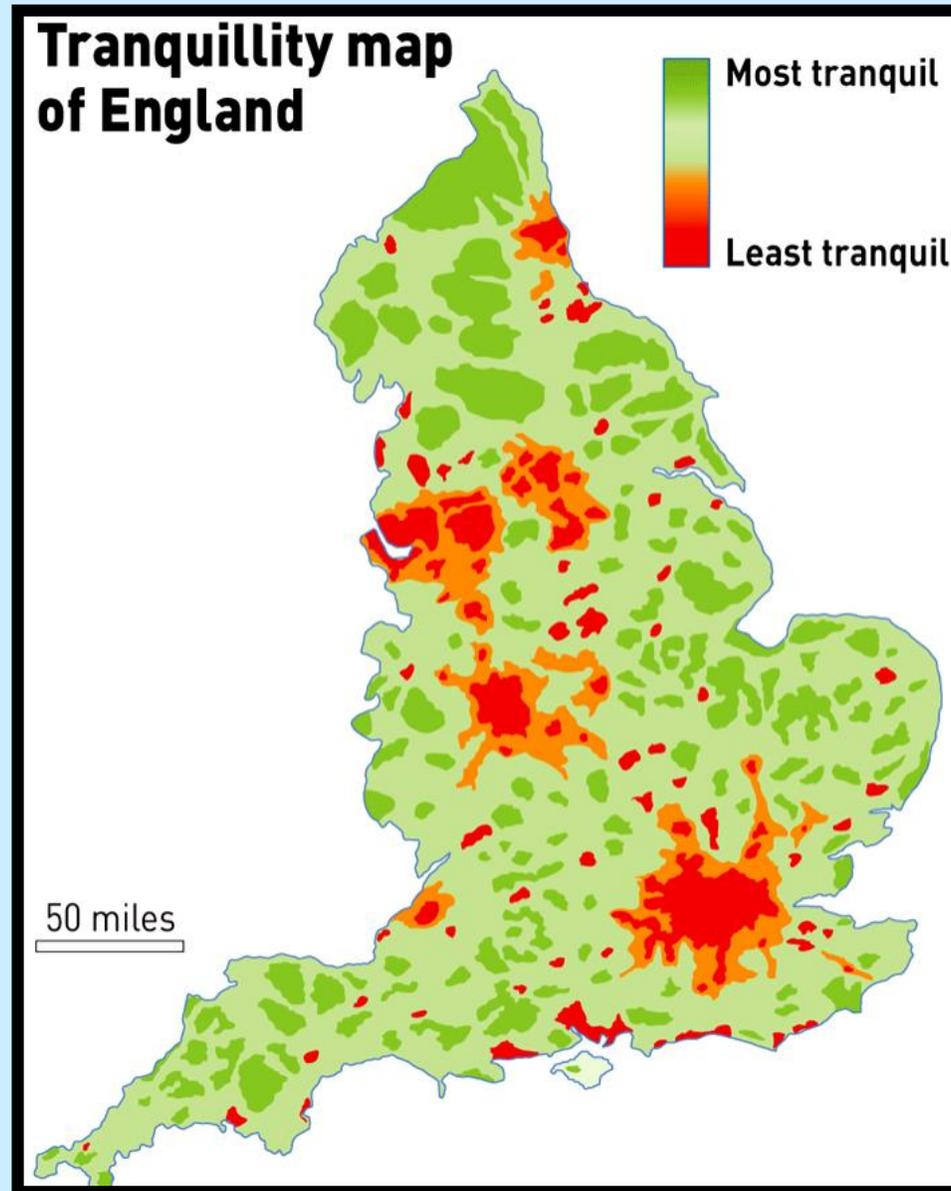
During the war, there was shortage of some foods because ships bringing food into Britain were at risk of being sunk by German submarines. Rationing was introduced in 1940, which meant each person could only buy fixed amounts of certain foods a week. Each person was issued with a ration book. They had to hand over coupons from their ration book as well as money when they went shopping. Many foods were rationed such as butter, bacon, sugar, meat, cheese and milk. Some food such as potatoes and fish were not rationed and people were encouraged to grow their own vegetables it was called the 'Dig for victory' campaign.



# Evacuation

During the war, German planes dropped bombs on British cities in an attempt to destroy factories, dockyards and airfields but homes and schools were also hit. The government decided to evacuate children from cities where they might be in danger and send them to the countryside where they would be safer. The children were called evacuees and lived with other families until the war ended.

*This map shows where the most dangerous places were and where children were evacuated from.*



*Children being evacuated to the countryside*

# Vocabulary

**Allied Powers**- Countries including Britain, France the Soviet Union and the USA who united against the Axis Powers.

**Axis Powers**- Countries including Germany, Italy and Japan united to fight against the Allied powers.

**civilian**- A person who is not in the army or the police.

**concentration camp**- a place where large numbers of people especially Jews were held and often killed.

**evacuee**- A child or vulnerable adult who was sent away from the city to live in the countryside which was considered safer.

invade- to enter or occupy a country by force.

**Nazi**- A follower of Adolf Hitler- leader of the Nazi

**persecute**- To treat someone cruelly or unfairly.

**propaganda**- Biased news, media and communication used to influence peoples opinions.

**rationing**- The limited supply of food, clothes and other goods to prevent shortages.



# Second World War timeline

**September 1<sup>st</sup>- 1939** Germany invades Poland

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>- 1939** Britain and France declare war on Germany (start of WW2)

**January, 1940-** Rationing introduced across the UK

**May to June, 1940-** Dunkirk evacuated and France surrenders to Germany

Germany uses blitzkrieg to take over much of Western Europe

**5 July, 1940-** Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain (The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begins) Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact creating the axis alliance

**December 7, 1941** -The Japanese attack the US navy in Pearl Harbor. The next day, the USA enters the war fighting with the allies

**June 6, 1944-** D-day and the Normandy invasion. Allied forces invade France and push back the Germans

**April 30, 1945** -Adolf Hitler commits suicide

**May 7, 1945** -Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day

**August 1945-** Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Japan by the US killing approximately 226,000 people

**September 2, 1945** -Japan surrenders signaling the end of WW2

**July, 1954** -Rationing ends in the UK