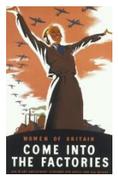
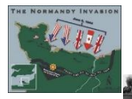
Year 6 History Knowledge Organiser – WWII

1.Why did WWII begin and who fought who?	2.Why did evacuation experiences differ and what does that tell us about evidence?	3.What can sources tell us about the impact of the Blitz on civilians?	4. How and why did life on the Home Front change during WWII?	5. How did the role of women contribute significantly to the war effort?	6. What was the Holocaust and why is it remembered today?	7. Why was D-Day a turning point for the allies?	8. How did the arrival of the Windrush generation change life in Britain after the war?
WW2 was triggered by the invasion of Poland by Germany on 1st September 1939. Britain declared war on 3rd September 1939. Long term causes: the Treaty of Versailles, economic instability and the rise of extremist politics. Short term causes: Hitler's expansion, failure of appeasement and the weakness of the League of Nations. WW2 involved many countries and empires, showing global connections and tensions.   	Evacuation began in 1939 to protect children from expected bombing in major cities. Children were moved from cities to the countryside. Experiences varied widely depending: - host family - class background - rural/urban differences - age - personality - expectations vs reality Government propaganda presented evacuation as positive and safe. Diaries, letters, photographs and oral history show evidence of a range of emotions and experiences.   	The Blitz was a sustained bombing campaign by Germany against British cities between Sept 1940-May 1941. Nottingham was bombed several times with the largest raid on 8-9th May 1941. Key Nottingham locations targeted - Nottingham's Lace Market - Nottingham University College - The Raleigh factory - The Co-operative Bakery - Residential streets in Basford, Sneinton and the Meadows. 159 people were killed in Nottingham during the Blitz, hundreds were injured or made homeless. Civilians experienced fear, homelessness, rationing and disruption to daily life. Evidence from this time shows both change (destruction, displacement) and continuity (community spirit, routines)   	The Home Front refers to life in Britain during WW2 for civilians not fighting in the armed forces. Life changed dramatically because the war demanded more: - workers - food producers - organisation - government control Key changes included: - Rationing (food, clothes, fuel) - Blackouts (to hide cities from enemy aircraft) - Women entering new jobs (factories, farming) - Civil defence roles (ARP wardens, fire watchers, first aiders) - Dig for Victory campaign - Propaganda to maintain morale - Evacuation  	Before the war women were mainly housewives and very few went out to work. Women took over jobs while men fought in the war. They worked in factories making weapons and equipment. Women joined the Women's land army to grow crops and food. Served in the ATS, WAAF and WRNS. Worked as drivers, nurses, mechanics and radio operators. Changed people's views on women in society and what they could do. When the men came home many women were demoted.   	The Holocaust took place during World War II. Propaganda was used to turn ordinary German citizens against Jewish citizens. Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, targeted Jewish people and other groups. About six million Jewish people were murdered. Many people were sent to ghettos and concentration camps. Some people risked their lives to help others escape or survive. The Holocaust is remembered to help prevent hatred, prejudice and discrimination.   	D-day took place on 6th June 1944 when Allied forces launched Operation Overlord, the largest seaborne invasion in history. The allies (Britain, USA, Canada and others) landed on five beaches in Normandy: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, Sword. The aim was to open a Western Front and push German forces back towards Germany. D-day succeeded because of: - careful planning - deception operations (Operation Fortitude) - air superiority - navel bombardment - resistance movements in France After D-day, the allies liberated France, Belguim and the Netherlands. Germany was forced to fight on three fronts: East (USSR), West (Allies) and South (Italy). This overstretched German resources and contributed to the collapse of Nazi Germany. Historians consider D-day a turning point because it changed the direction of the war.  	Britain needed workers after World War II. People from the Caribbean came to Britain on the Empire Windrush in 1948. Many worked in key jobs such as the NHS and transport. They brought new cultures, food, music and traditions. Some faced racism and unfair treatment. The Windrush generation helped make Britain the diverse country it is today. Nurses - Helped run the NHS. Bus drivers and conductors - Kept public transport running. Factory workers - Helped rebuild Britain's economy. Teachers - Educated future generations. Community leaders - Fought discrimination and promoted equality.  
Historical Skill: Cause and Consequence	**Historical Skill: Historical Interpretation**	**Historical Skill: Change and Continuity**	**Historical Skill: Change and Continuity**	**Historical Skill: Change and Continuity**	**Historical Skill: Historical Significance**	**Historical Skill: Historical Significance**	**Historical Skill: Cause and Consequence**
Key vocabulary: appeasement invasion expansion empire allies /axis powers treaty	**Key vocabulary:** evacuation billeting Home Front bias propaganda source perspective	**Key vocabulary:** Blitz air raid Anderson shelter civilian destruction resilience morale	**Key vocabulary:** morale rationing propaganda Civil defence ARP warden Dig for Victory Home Front	**Key vocabulary:** propaganda War effort ATS -Auxiliary Territorial Service WAAF-Women's Auxiliary Airforce WRNS- Women's Royal Navy service Women's land army Radar	**Key vocabulary:** Holocaust propaganda Nazi Jews Antisemitism persecution discrimination deportation Concentration Camp Genocide	**Key vocabulary:** D-day liberation turning point superiority invasion front Operation Overlord logistics resistance	**Key vocabulary:** Windrush generation discrimination migration Caribbean Commonwealth contribution diversity
