



## Learning Exploration: World War II – The World At War

The study of World War II – The World at War - aligns with the aims of the national curriculum by providing students with a comprehensive understanding of this significant historical period. By exploring World War II, students will be able to develop an understanding of the causes and events leading up to war. They will develop a sense of chronology and understand the sequence of historical events, placing the period of World War II in context with their previous learning.

Students will gain an understanding of the global nature of World War II. They will explore the experiences and contributions of different countries and regions, with a particular focus on Britain. This will provide a broader perspective on the war and allow students to appreciate the varied impacts it had on different parts of the world.

By teaching Year 6 students about World War II, we provide them with a comprehensive understanding of this pivotal period in history. It equips them with vital historical knowledge, fosters critical thinking skills, and promotes empathy and understanding, enabling them to engage with the complexities and consequences of the war and its impact on individuals, communities, and nations.

### Hook into learning:

This exploration will begin with year six exploring the causes of WWII and what led Britain to decide to declare war on Germany. Children will experience a drama activity where they will 'become' members of parliament in 1939 and debate the declaration of war.

### Journey through the exploration

Children will explore the key question what were the main reasons for the start of WWII. Through a focus on oracy, children will debate, in role as a member of parliament, whether they would have voted to go to war or not justifying their reasoning. After this, children will begin to **explore this period of history and its place on a timeline in relation to their prior learning** from previous year groups. As part of this exploration of chronology, children will **develop an understanding of what was happening in different parts of the world, including Britain and Germany, at this time**. There will be a particular focus on the **home front and the impact of the war on the people of Britain and Germany** through studying a variety of sources. Towards the end of the exploration, **children will explore the long term impacts of WWII on the people of Britain**.





### Linked subjects

Through this exploration, learning will be linked where appropriate, including in the following subjects:

- English
- History – WWII
- Art – sketching

The following subjects will be taught discretely:

- Computing – programming
- PSHE - Being Me in My World
- Music
- Maths
- Science – light
- R.E - Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?
- PE – Gymnastics and



### Writing



Children will explore the following genres of writing:

**Fiction:** The Ice Bear

**Purpose:** To vividly describe and entertain. Children will write their own emotive story.

**Non-fiction – diary writing:** My Secret War Diary by Flossie Albright – Marcia Williams

**Purpose:** To describe events and convince the reader. Children will write a sequence of diary entries as an evacuee.

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum:

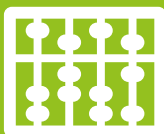
Diary from the perspective of someone who has experienced WWII.

Science explanation of how the eye works.

### Maths

Children will explore:

- **Place Value**, developing a secure understanding of the value of digits in increasingly large numbers and applying this knowledge to solve a range of mathematical problems.
- **Addition and Subtraction**, using a variety of efficient written and mental methods to calculate accurately and explain their reasoning.
- **Multiplication and Division**, building confidence in using formal written methods, recalling key number facts fluently, and applying these skills to solve multi-step problems in real-life contexts.
- **Mathematical Reasoning and Problem Solving**, selecting appropriate strategies, justifying answers, and tackling increasingly complex challenges with resilience and confidence.





### Opportunities to build cultural capital

At NCSA, we aim to build pupils' cultural capital through enriching experiences, including educational visits, visitors, music, and meaningful links with our local community.

For Year 6, opportunities this term may include:

- Exploring authentic Second World War artefacts and historical sources through a **WWII Museum Box** loaned by Barnstaple Museum, helping children to develop their understanding of life during wartime and the importance of primary sources in historical enquiry.
- Participating in an educational visit to **Exeter**, where children will learn about the city's role during the Second World War. Through a guided tour and train journey, pupils will gain an insight into the experiences of evacuees and deepen their understanding of how the war affected everyday life.
- Developing an appreciation of the work of significant **war artists**, exploring how artists such as Paul Nash, John Piper and Henry Moore captured the realities, emotions and impact of conflict through their artwork.
- Broadening their understanding of Britain's wartime history by making connections between local, national and global events, encouraging reflection on the resilience, sacrifices and achievements of those who lived through this significant period.



### Opportunities to address Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Teaching World War II provides valuable opportunities for children to develop their understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion. Through exploring a range of historical perspectives and personal experiences, pupils are encouraged to reflect on fairness, discrimination, resilience and the contributions of people from different backgrounds. These discussions help children to build empathy, challenge stereotypes and gain a broader understanding of the impact of historical events on individuals and communities around the world. This may include:

- Exploring the important roles and achievements of women during World War II, including their contributions to the workforce, military services and home front.
- Learning about the experiences and contributions of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds across Britain, Europe and the wider Commonwealth during the war.



### Opportunities for shared outcomes

Children will have the opportunity to produce or take part in one or more of the following:

- Discussions and debates.
- Share their artwork based on the Learning Exploration.
- War Museum – end of Autumn 2



### Further curriculum information

If you would like any further information regarding the curriculum, please:

- Speak to Mrs Gregory, Miss Pennington or Miss Ashton.
- See your child's class information on Seesaw.
- Visit the Curriculum pages on our website.
- Speak to Mrs. Gregory, our curriculum lead.