

Year 7 Evacuees Knowledge Organiser

**Students will need to be familiar with the following speech by Neville Chamberlain who was Prime Minister when World War 2 was declared:
Declaration of war: Chamberlain's radio broadcast, 3 September 1939, 11am.**

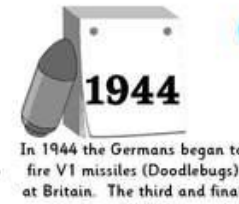
'I am speaking to you from the cabinet room at 10 Downing Street. This morning the British ambassador in Berlin handed the German government a final note stating that unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us. I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently this country is at war with Germany.

You can imagine what a bitter blow it is to me that all my long struggle to win peace has failed. Yet I cannot believe that there is anything more, or anything different, that I could have done and that would have been more successful. Up to the very last it would have been quite possible to have arranged a peaceful and honourable settlement between Germany and Poland. But Hitler would not have it. He had evidently made up his mind to attack Poland whatever happened, and although he now says he put forward reasonable proposals which were rejected by the Poles, that is not a true statement. The proposals were never shown to the Poles, nor to us, and though they were announced in the German broadcast on Thursday night, Hitler did not wait to hear comments on them, but ordered his troops to cross the Polish frontier the next morning.

His action shows convincingly that there is no chance of expecting that this man will ever give up his practice of using force to gain his will. He can only be stopped by force.

We have a clear conscience. We have done all that any country could do to establish peace. But the situation in which no word given by Germany's ruler could be trusted, and no people or country could feel itself safe, had become intolerable. And now that we have resolved to finish it, I know that you will all play your part with calmness and courage'

Key events during World War II



Key Facts about Evacuees during WWII

1. World War Two took place between 1939 and 1945
2. Children were evacuated from large towns and cities and moved to rural areas for safety. They were referred to as 'evacuees'. For some children, this was the first time they had ever been away from home or to the countryside
3. Men aged over 18 and considered to be fit and healthy had to 'enlist' (join the army) Women were required to carry out domestic duties at home as well as 'manual' jobs which were previously carried out by men.
4. Evacuees had to carry Gas Masks and Personal Identity Cards in case of an attack
5. Rationing and expensive food costs limited good quality food in the cities but children were given healthy, rich and balanced food in the countryside as it was home grown