The World Wars (WWII) Knowledge Organiser

Key knowledge
✓ War is a conflict between people or nations.
✓ WWII was a battle between two groups of countries- The Allied Powers and the Axis Powers. The major allied powers were Britain, France, Russia, China and the USA. The major Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan.
✓ Together with the Nazi party, Hitler wanted Germany to rule Europe. To gain more land and power, on the 1st Sep 1939 German troops invaded Poland. After Hitler refused to stop the invasion, Britain and France declared war on Germany-WWII had begun.
✓ The bombing of London, known as the blitz lasted for 57 consecutive nights. Hitler wanted to quash the British spirits so they would surrender.
✓ Hitler terrorised those who opposed him or who were different, including gypsies, political opponents and the disabled, by having then tortured, imprisoned or killed. The mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis is called the Holocaust.
✓ Both the allies and the axis powers used propaganda posters to boost the moral at people at home and those fighting. It was also used to decrease the moral of the enemy.
✓ Propaganda is information (accurate or inaccurate) that a political organisation publishes to influence people and persuade people to think and/or act in a certain way.
✓ War changed the daily lives and roles of British men (most became soldiers), women (working in factories or on the land etc), and children (working and/or evacuated).

Key Events Timeline	
September 1, 1939	Germany invades Poland
September 3, 1939	Britain and France declare war on Germany (*start of WW2*)
January, 1940	Rationing introduced across the UK
May to September, 1940	Germany launches air attacks on Great Britain (*The Battle of Britain and the Blitz begins*)
September, 1940 to May, 1941	The Blitz
30 April, 1945	Adolf Hitler commits suicide
May 7, 1945 May 8, 1945	Germany surrenders & victory in Europe is declared the next day
1954	Rationing ends in the UK

Evacuation of children:

<u>BIG Questions</u>

What were the causes, events and consequences of the First and Second World Wars?

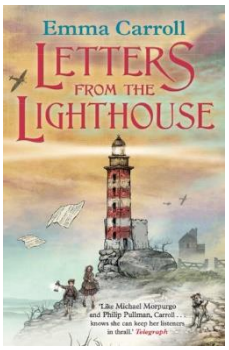
How was life in Great Britain affected by the World Wars?

What is the difference between a conflict and a world war?

What was the legacy of the wars in the post-war period?

What was the holocaust and what should we say to anyone who denies it happened?

Our Text:



Key Vocabulary			
biased	Prejudice for or against a person, group or idea that is based on personal opinion rather than objective facts.	invade	A hostile entry into the territory of another.
motive	Something that causes a person to act.	Axis	The Axis Powers were originally Germany, Japan and Italy. Other countries joined them later.
significance	Being meaningful or important.	Allies	The United Kingdom, France and Poland, later joined by other countries, including the USSR (Soviet Union), the United States of America and China.
turning point	When an important change occurs.	Nazi	A German political party with racist and anti-Jewish ideas, led by Adolf Hitler.
extent of change	How much something changes.	evacuee	Someone who was evacuated (moved) from a dangerous area to a safer place.
government	A group of people that have the power to rule in a territory, according to the law.	Holocaust	Mass murder of Jews and other groups of people by the Nazis.
reliable	Something/someone that can be trusted or believed.	Luftwaffe	The German air force.
propaganda	Information designed to promote a political idea or opinion.	refugees	A person who is seeking a safe haven after being forced to flee war.
primary evidence	Provides original information on an event, topic, or era from that period in time.	Kindertransport	An organised rescue effort of children from Nazi control.
primary source	Provides original information on an event, topic, or era from that period in time.	air raid siren	A device that sounds an alarm to warn people when an air raid is expected.
secondary evidence	A second-hand account of history.	gas mask	A mask connected to a chemical air filter and used to protect the face and lungs from toxic gases.
secondary source	A second-hand account of history.	Blitz	A German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom.
legacy	Something we inherit from past generations.	blackout	System of ensuring no lights were visible after dark, so buildings could not be spotted by enemy planes.
conflict	A serious disagreement.	rationing	The controlled distribution of resources.

Key people	
Neville Chamberlain was the British Prime Minister at the time and he announced to Britain that they were at war with Germany on 3rd September, 1939.	**Adolf Hitler** was the Führer Leader of Nazi Germany.
Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister from 1940 – 1945.	