

World War 2 and the Home Front



Name _____

Class _____

Teacher _____

Treaty of Versailles

Following the end of World War 1 with the armistice in November 1918, the Treaty of Versailles was signed to keep the peace in June 1919. This was agreed to by the 'big three' which included David Lloyd George (UK), Woodrow Wilson (USA) and George Clemenceau (France). This treaty was forced upon the Germans who were made to agree to the terms without their say. This terms can be summarised as:



Task 1: Explain what each of these terms were.

Blame =

Reparations =

Army =

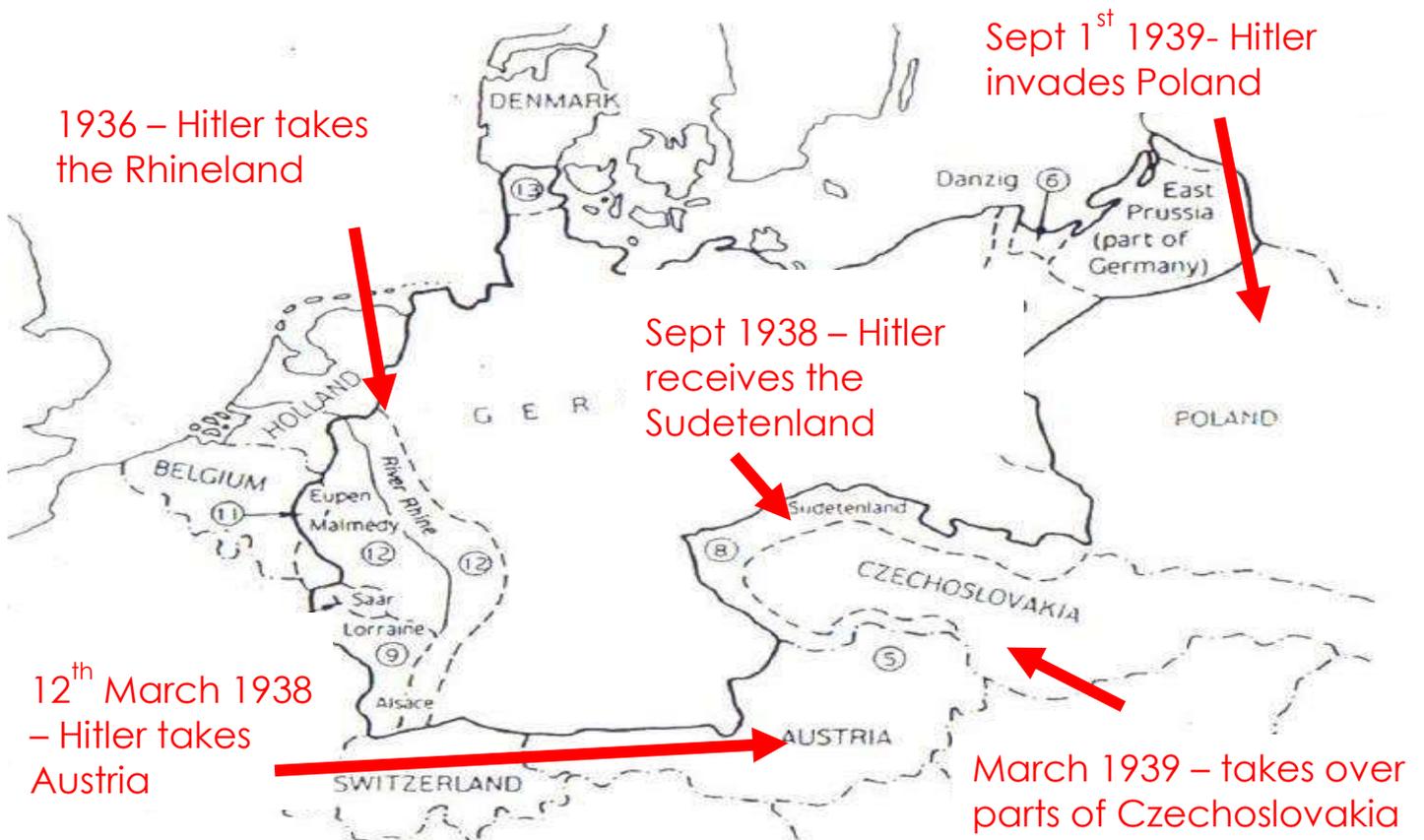
Territory =

The German people disliked the Treaty for the following reasons:

- They suffered an economic crisis
- They lost their empire
- They didn't accept guilt for starting the war
- They lost industrial areas and didn't have the money to rebuild
- They lost pride without their armed forces
- Many Germans now lived under foreign rule in new countries
- They couldn't afford reparations so the country was poor

Task 2 – Explain how the Treaty of Versailles would affect the new government in Germany.

Causes of World War 2 –



Task 3 – Explain what is happening in the above map. HINT – key word = appeasement

Evacuation –



It was expected that once war broke out, that cities would be the main targets for bombings. The government took over Britain's entire transport system – all the buses and trains – for 4 days to get people out of the major cities.

Armed with suitcases full of clothes, a gas mask packed into a cardboard box and a name tag tied to their coats, thousands of children left their homes for a new experience in the countryside.

There were two main methods of finding a new home or 'foster family':

1. **Grab a child** – the children were lined up and local people would choose the ones they wanted. This meant usually the smarter, cleaner children went first and the sicklier and scruffy looking children were the last to be picked
2. **Hunt the home** – evacuated children were led around the town or village and taken door-to-door. Homeowners were asked if they would foster a child for a while.

Source A – the thoughts of one young girl remembering what happened to her and her brother when she was evacuated

'Villagers stood around watching us as we got out of the bus and went into the school. What followed was like an auction. Villagers came in to choose children. "Mr and Mrs Jones would like a nice little boy". Nobody wanted the awkward combination of a girl of 11 and such a small boy, from whom I had promised my mother never to be separated. We were left until the very last. The room was almost empty. I sat on my rucksack and cried.'

Source B – An example of a family who had to hunt for a home.

'They unloaded us on the corner of the street; we thought it was all arranged, but it wasn't. The billeting officer [the man in charge of housing the children] walked along knocking on doors and asking if they'd take a family. We were the last to be picked. You couldn't blame them; they didn't have any coloured people there in those days'

Task 4 – answer the following questions using the sources above

a) Describe the two different methods used to find these two young families a new home.

b) Write down the reasons why they each had problems finding a new home.

c) Do either of the reasons surprise you? Give reasons for your answer.

The Blitz and Blitz Spirit –

Key word –

Blitz = A strong military attack



The word 'blitz' comes from

Blitzkrieg = German word meaning 'lightening war'

In late autumn 1940, the Blitz spread beyond London to Britain's other major towns and cities. Many were the locations of major war industries. However, it was often their commercial centres and residential areas that were most badly affected by air raids.

Manchester was hit by two nights of air raids in December 1940. These are often referred to as the 'Christmas Blitz'.

As a result of the Manchester raids, an estimated 684 people died and more than 2,000 were injured.

Task 5 – Using the information sheet on the next page, create a spider diagram on what happened during the Manchester Blitz and what was the aftermath.

The Manchester
Blitz

Manchester Blitz Information-



In late autumn 1940, the Blitz spread beyond London to Britain's other major towns and cities. Many were the locations of major war industries. However, it was often their compact commercial centres and residential areas that were most badly affected by air raids.

Manchester, in the north-west of England, was hit by two nights of air raids in December 1940. These are often referred to as the 'Christmas Blitz'.

As a result of these raids, an estimated 684 people died and more than 2,000 were injured.

Manchester and the surrounding area was a major centre of industry during the Second World War.

Many large firms were concentrated in the Trafford Park area, making it an important target for German bombers. Major producers included the aircraft manufacturer A V Roe which produced Manchester and Lancaster bombers. Ford also employed 17,000 workers making aero engines in a huge new factory complex. During the air raids on 22-24 December 1940, the Metropolitan-Vickers works in Mosley Road was just one of the area's factories to be badly damaged. In a later raid on Trafford Park in March 1941, Manchester United's Old Trafford football ground was hit by a bomb and put out of action until 1949.



Manchester was attacked by German bombers on the night of 22-23 December and again the following night, 23-24 December. The pattern of hitting cities on consecutive nights was a tactic increasingly used by the Luftwaffe to inflict maximum disruption and destruction on its targets. On the first night of raids, 272 tons of high explosive bombs were dropped. The following night another 195 tons of high explosives hit the city. Almost 2,000 incendiaries were also dropped on the city across the two nights. One side of Manchester Piccadilly, as shown in this photograph, was almost completely destroyed in the raids.

The city's infrastructure was badly affected by the air raids in December 1940. Both of the city's main railway stations were hit, as was the bus station. Two of the main roads in the city, Deansgate and Oxford Road, were blocked by debris from damaged buildings, bomb craters and unexploded bombs (UXBs). A whole section of the city centre had to be cordoned off. Water supplies were affected and electricity was rationed.



Key word –

'Blitz Spirit'- People coming together to try and make life as normal as possible during the Blitz

What is it all about?

- All newspapers made the Germans seem terrible because of the bombings.
- The Germans had hoped to make the British feel sad and reluctant to carry on with the war but it did the opposite.
- People seemed cheerful and many people sang as they entered bomb shelters to show they were still up for the fight.
- Most people were upset that friends and family were killed but offered homes and food for people in need and carried on going into work.

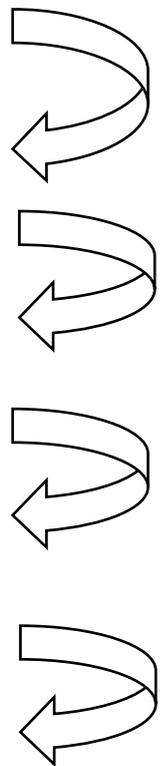
The bombing affected everybody's lives, mostly because of blackouts and air raid shelters. Homes, shops, factories also had blackouts.

At the start the government gave out free air raid shelters called Anderson shelters. 2 million were given out.

They saved lives but by June 1941, 43,000 had been killed and 1.5 million homes destroyed.

The government realised Anderson shelters could only be used in gardens, which many poor people did not have, so they issued 500,000 Morrison shelters which could be used indoors.

The government had to give in, and let people use the London underground, but around 60% of people did not use shelters. People enjoyed this as they felt safer with others and could talk about their fears.



Task 6 – What do you think the government did to keep morale high?

What would you do to keep your spirits up during the Blitz?

The Role of Women during World War 2 –

With conscription being introduced legally in World War 1 majority of men were sent to war against the Germans. Women were drafted in to work in factories and had a vital role on the Home Front. They were placed in roles such as mechanics, engineers, munitions workers, air raid wardens, bus and fire engine drivers.



At first, only single women, aged 20-30 were called up, but by mid-1943, almost 90 per cent of single women and 80 per cent of married women were working in factories, on the land or in the armed forces. Even Princess Elizabeth got involved (now our Queen). She trained as a driver and mechanic.

In Manchester, many women went into the munitions factories in Trafford Park to work. This involved women producing the weapons used in the war effort. This was dangerous work as it involved the filling of bombs and shells.

Task 7 – Using information below, **create a fact file or a poster** on the different jobs that women did in the North West during the war effort.

You must include:

- At least 6 different types of work women did
- What this involved
- Why this work was dangerous
- How this work was helping the war effort

Women in World War 2 information –

The First World War was fought on a huge industrial scale. Munitions were needed in vast quantities to feed the guns and a variety of products were required to supply both military and civilian needs.

With men recruited for the armed forces, the industrial workforce changed. Over 600,000 women took on previously male-dominated roles in industry during the war, working alongside men in reserved occupations. Women made an increasingly varied contribution, working in labs, mills and factories, sometimes in hazardous circumstances.

As an industrial hub, the North-West of England had a significant role to play. Many of the region's companies converted to produce munitions for the war effort. Local working class women already doing industrial jobs in the North-West were joined by other women learning new skills.

The Munitions Factory – Women munitions workers, alongside their male counterparts, produce 6-inch high explosive shells at the works of the Yorkshire & Lancashire Railway Company at Horwich, Bolton in 1917. Many companies switched to making munitions during the war, as well as welcoming more women into their workforce.



The Lab Workers - Women at work in the laboratory of Brunner, Mond & Co in Northwich, a company that manufactured sodium bicarbonate. Sometimes known as baking soda, sodium bicarbonate was used for baking and a range of other purposes. Women at the factory did a variety of jobs, from scientific lab work to packaging the finished product.



The Coal Miners - Women pit brow workers of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company, 1918. These women sorted coal and moved heavy tubs on the surface of a coal mine – work that was dirty and physically demanding. Jobs like these had been done by working class women before the war and continued to be important in wartime.

Making tyres - Women workers at the factory of Charles Macintosh & Sons in Manchester make tyres for motor vehicles. The company produced a wide range of vital rubber products, including mouthpieces for gas masks issued to soldiers. Making these products required technical skill.

Working with asbestos - Women workers producing asbestos mattresses at the factory of Turner Brothers in Trafford Park, Manchester. Whilst appreciated as a hazardous material today, asbestos was used in a range of wartime products such as mattresses used to line the boilers of battleships.



The flour mill - Women workers of a flour mill at Rank & Sons, Birkenhead, Cheshire, happily pose for the camera in 1918. Working in industry could be hard, monotonous and sometimes dangerous, but there was also a strong sense of camaraderie amongst workers. Wartime conditions saw a greater variety of opportunities for women.



Manufacturing glucose - Women employees working in the glucose factory of Nicholls, Nagel & Co, Trafford Park, Manchester, 1918. They are scraping runs and shovelling starch into trucks as part of the manufacturing process. Women workers at this company did physical work like this, but also worked as chemists in the lab.

Producing glass - Women workers at the Pilkington's glass factory in St Helens, Cheshire, 1918. They are shown handling large sheets of glass with only tiny protective pads to help them. The factory produced glass products from large sheets to small portholes for submarines.

Task 7 - Create your fact file/poster below –

