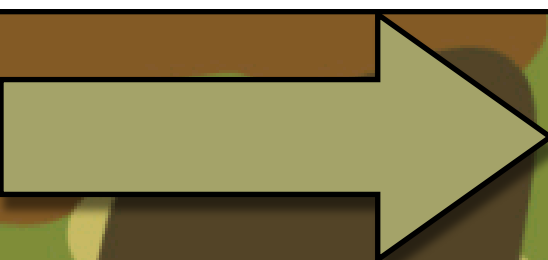


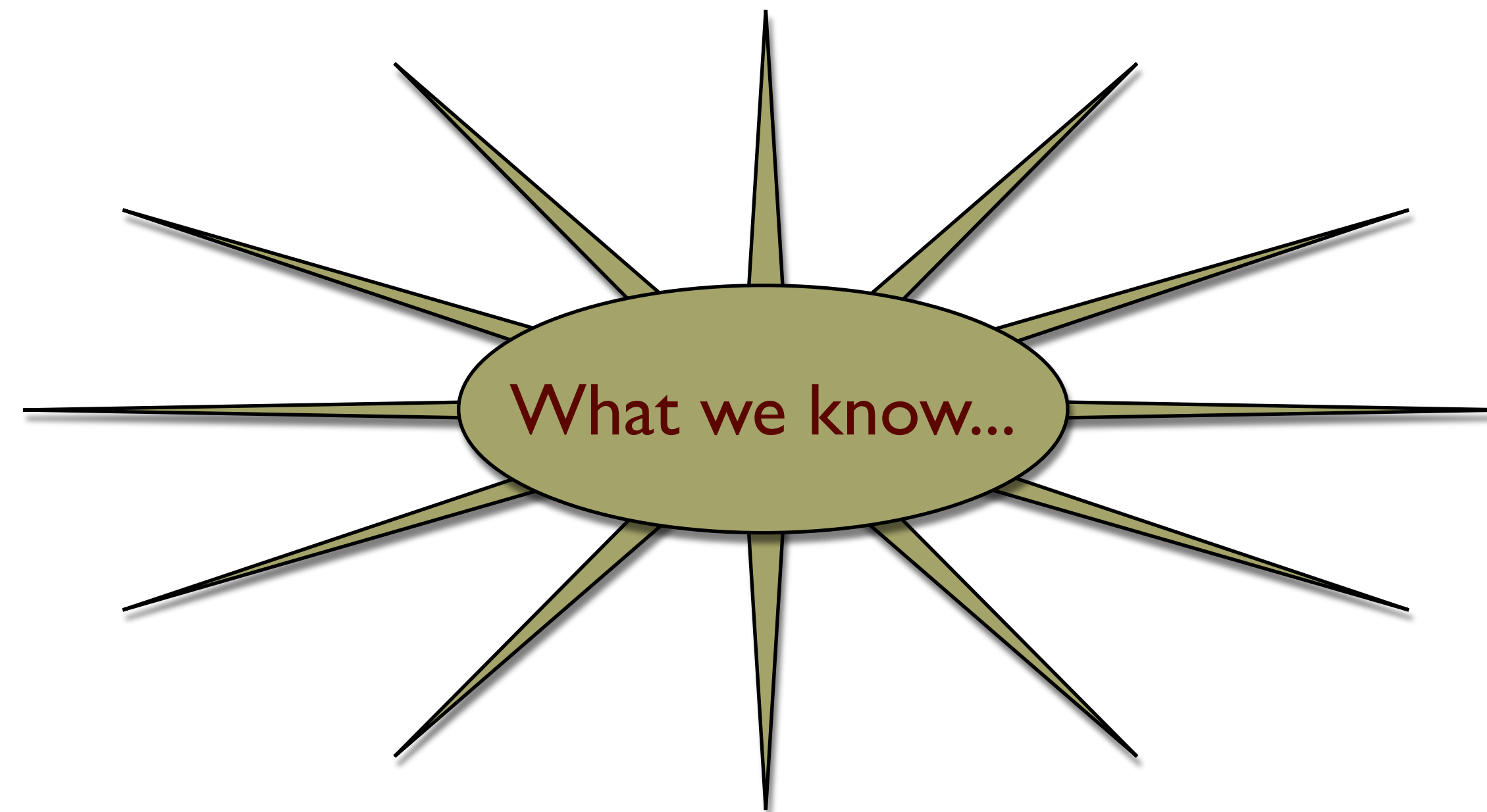
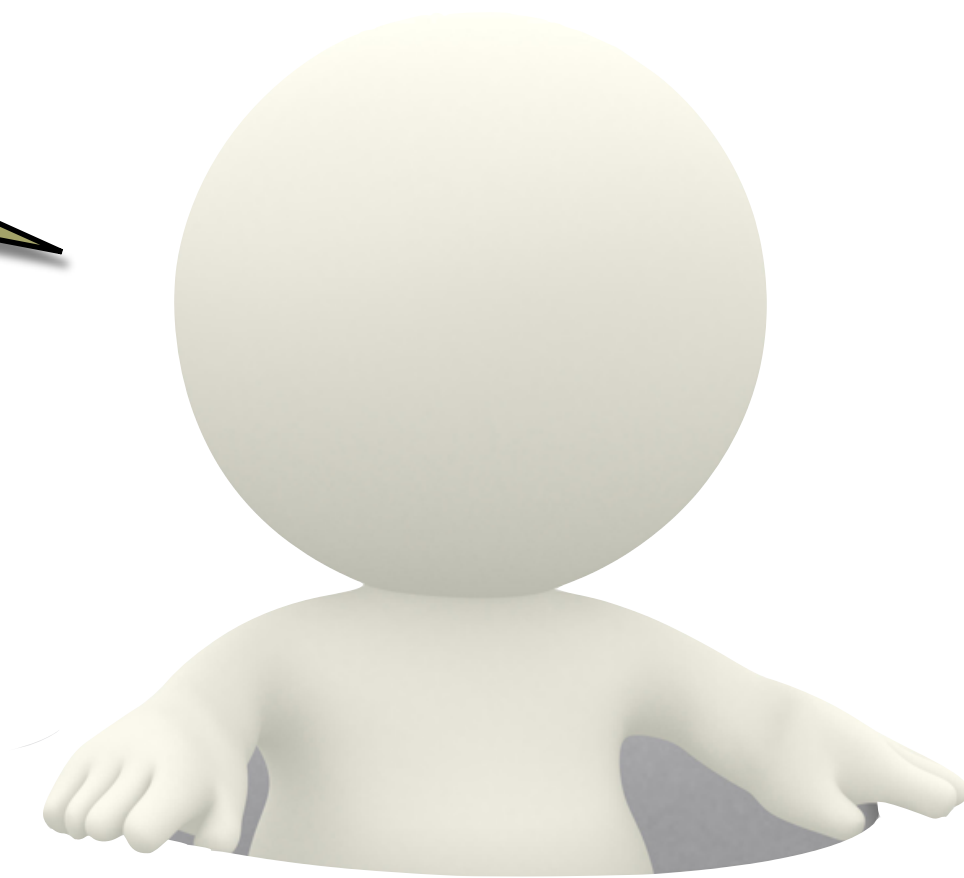
What was it like for children in the Second World War?

Learning Objective:

To find out what World War II was and where and when it took place.



What do you already know about WW2?



How did World War II start?

After the First World War from 1914-1918, everyone wanted to make sure that war on such a big scale never happened again. Millions of people had been killed and injured all over the world. The leaders of England, Italy, France and America blamed Germany for World War I and wanted to ensure that Germany would never be able to start a war again. They wrote an agreement called the Treaty of Versailles which Germany had no choice but to sign. The treaty stated that:

- Germany must accept the blame for the war
- Germany must pay £6,600 million to cover the damages caused by the war
- Germany was only allowed a small army
- Germany must have land taken away

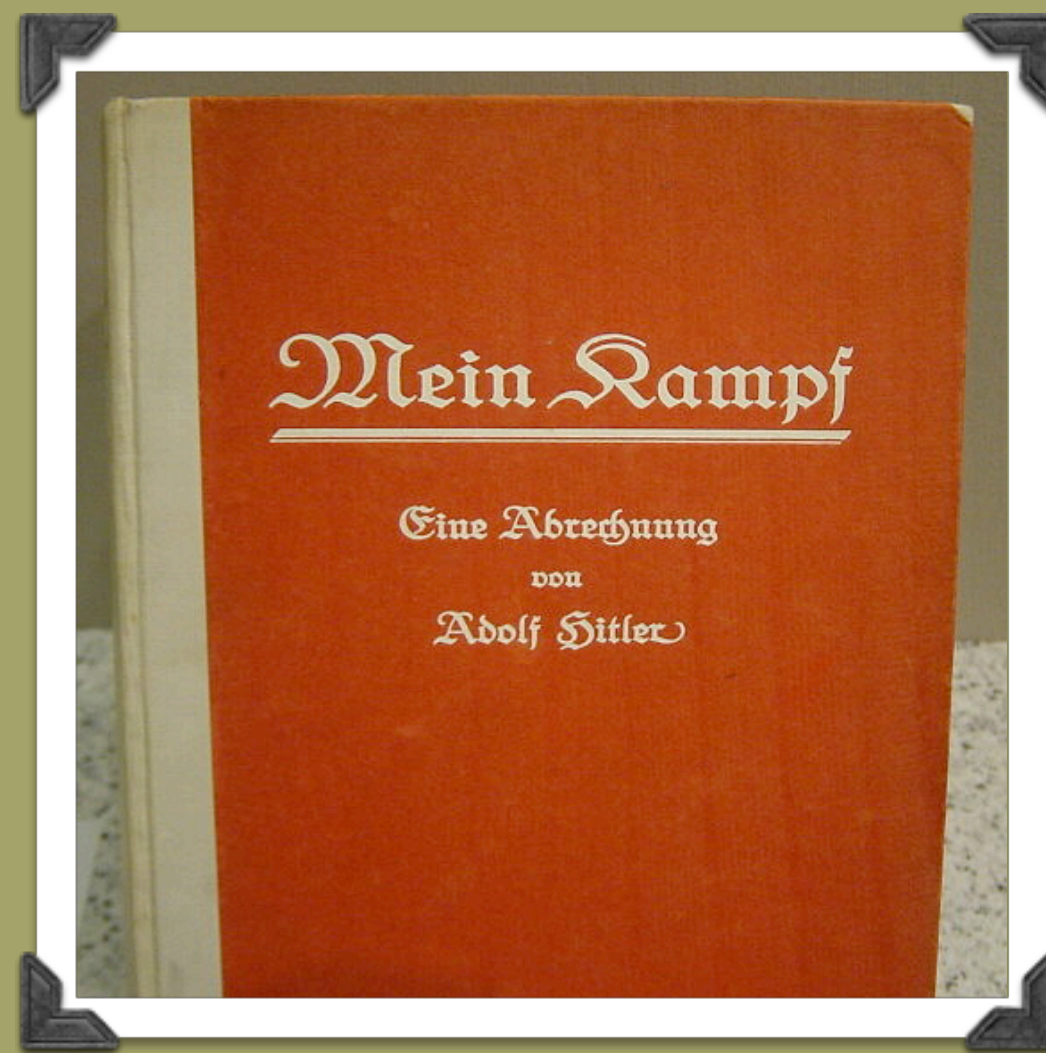


Adolf Hitler

The people of Germany were very unhappy about the Treaty of Versailles because they didn't have enough money to pay back the fine. Lots of people were very poor. So in 1933 they voted that a man named Adolf Hitler should be made leader of Germany. Hitler had promised that he would make Germany great again and that he would build up Germany's army and navy once more.

Hitler was the leader of a political party called the National Socialist German Worker's Party, or Nazi Party. The Nazis believed that German Aryans (white people with fair hair and blue eyes) were the 'master' race and that all other people were lesser races and inferior to them. Hitler wanted eradicate these 'lesser' people from Germany to make Germany a powerful world leader once more.

This symbol is called a swastika and was the emblem of the Nazi party.



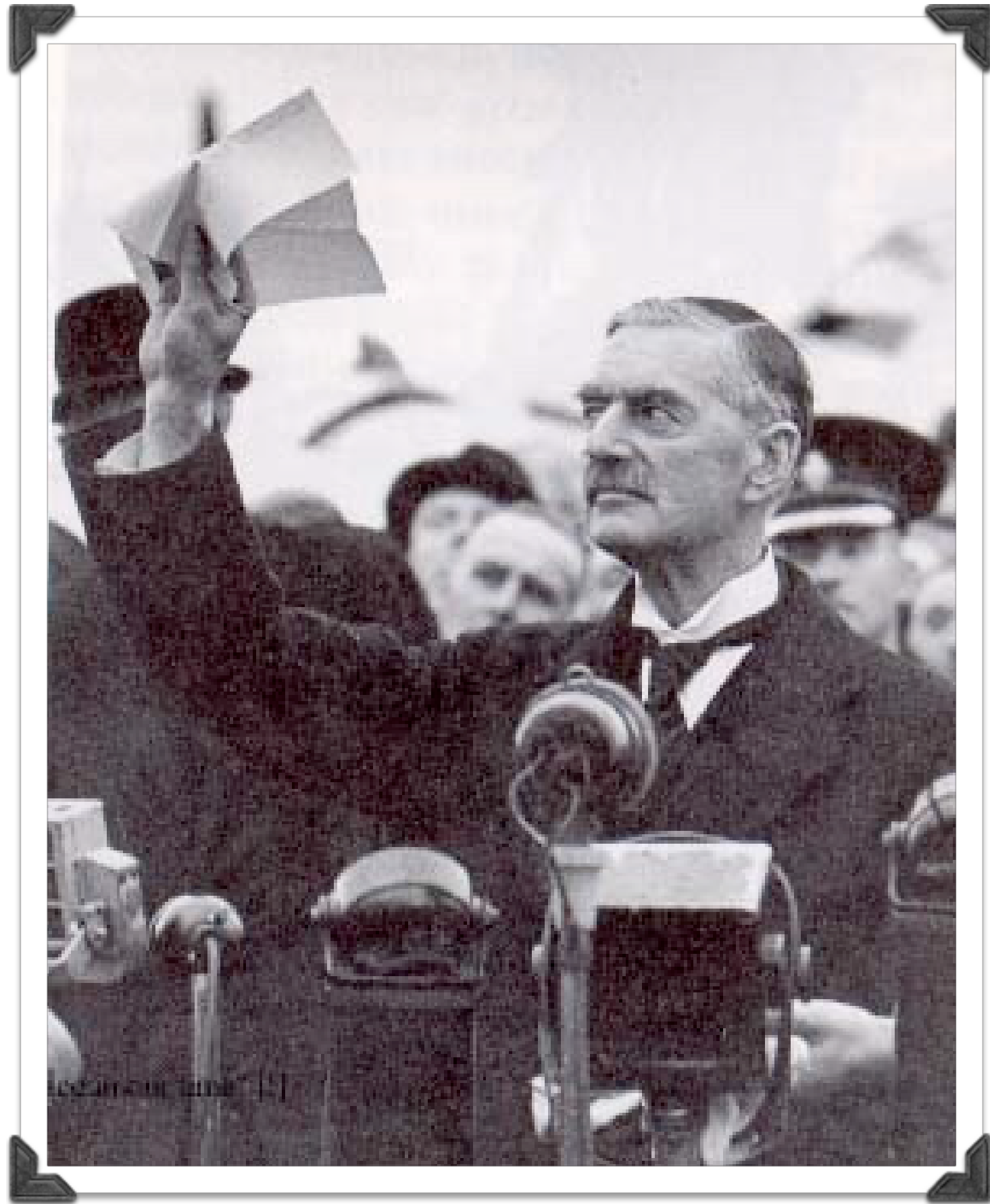
Hitler wrote a famous book called 'Mein Kampf' before he became leader explaining how he would make Germany great again.

As soon as he came to power, Hitler started secretly building up Germany's armed forces. In 1936 he also made important alliances with Italy and Japan. It soon became clear to countries like England and France that Germany was not keeping to the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, but by then some people were beginning to believe that the treaty had been unfair on Germany.



Instead of fighting back when Germany began taking back land, they let them continue because they didn't want to start another war. This was called the Policy of Appeasement. But this policy failed and Germany continued to gather troops.

Then, on 1st September 1939, over 1 million German soldiers invaded Poland. This was the last straw. On 3rd September, Britain's Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, declared war on Germany. This was the start of World War II.



Why do you think other world leaders let Germany get away with breaking the Treaty of Versailles for so long before finally declaring war on them?

Discuss your ideas with a partner.



Lots of countries were involved in WW2 and they were split into two sides called the Axis and the Allies.

Allies

- Britain
- United States
- France
- Greece
- Australia
- Canada
- Belgium
- India
- Poland
- South Africa
- USSR
- Yugoslavia
- China

...and lots more

The Second World War affected everyone. It wasn't just soldiers and politicians. The effects of the war were felt by every person throughout the world.

Axis

- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Hungary
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Bulgaria



How do you think you would have felt the day that the World War II was announced?

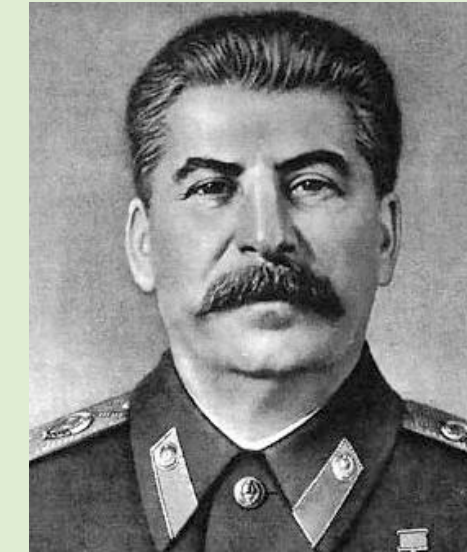
World leaders during WW2



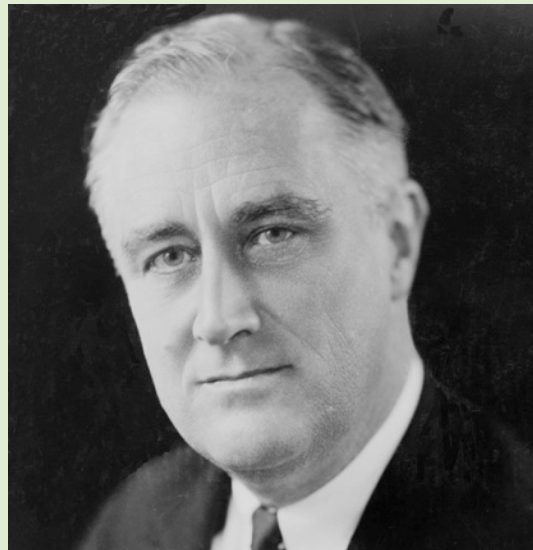
Adolf Hitler - Germany



Winston Churchill - Great Britain



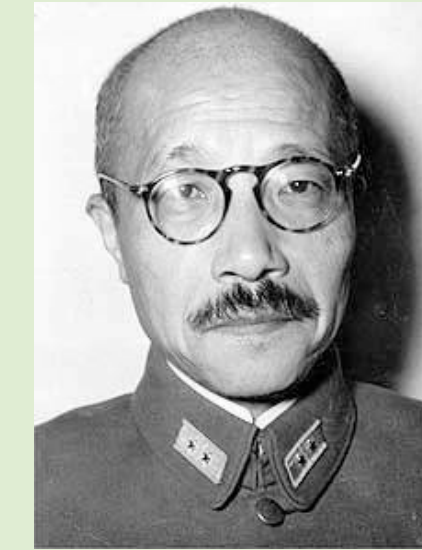
Joseph Stalin - Russia (USSR)



F D Roosevelt - United States



Charles de Gaulle - France



Hideki Tojo - Japan



Benito Mussolini - Italy

Can you remember which
leaders are on which side?



How and when did the war end?

During the course of the war, the axis troops had captured and occupied lots of different countries, including Poland and France. But by 1944, lots of these countries were being freed by the allied forces.

Italy had also changed sides and in 1943 declared war on Germany. The Axis power were losing and the Allied troops had entered Germany. Then, on 30th April 1945, Adolf Hitler committed suicide and a week later Germany surrendered to the European allies.





On 8th May 1945, Winston Churchill announced that the war was over. This was called VE day (Victory in Europe day). Everyone celebrated by waving flags, having street parties, singing and dancing. But there was still war in other parts of the world. It wasn't until 14th September 1945 that World War 2 officially ended.

What was the name of the leader of the German Nazi party?

What does 'VE' day mean?

Who was Britain's prime minister when war was announced?

Who was Britain's prime minister for most of WW2?

What year did WW2 start and end?

How many of these questions can you now answer about WW2?

Who were the allied forces?

What was the name of the treaty that blamed Germany for WW1?

